

TechTarget Inc
Form 10-K
March 13, 2015
Table of Contents

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 10-K

x **ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014

.. **TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number: 1-33472

TechTarget, Inc.

(Exact name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware (State or Other Jurisdiction of	04-3483216
Incorporation or Organization)	(I.R.S. Employer
	Identification No.)
275 Grove Street	02466
Newton, Massachusetts	(Zip Code)
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)	
Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (617) 431-9200	

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act:

None.

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act:

Common Stock, \$0.001 Par Value

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check One):

Large Accelerated Filer Accelerated Filer
Non-Accelerated Filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller Reporting Company
Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

The aggregate market value of the registrant's common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant was approximately \$171.8 million as of June 30, 2014 (based on a closing price of \$8.82 per share as quoted by the Nasdaq Global Market as of such date). In determining the market value of non-affiliate common stock, shares of the registrant's common stock beneficially owned by officers, directors and affiliates have been excluded. This determination of affiliate status is not necessarily a conclusive determination for other purposes.

The registrant had 32,911,111 shares of Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share, outstanding as of February 27, 2015.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Part III of this Annual Report incorporates by reference certain information from the registrant's definitive proxy statement for the 2015 annual meeting of shareholders, which the registrant intends to file pursuant to Regulation 14A with the Securities and Exchange Commission not later than 120 days after the registrant's fiscal year end of December 31, 2014.

Table of Contents**TABLE OF CONTENTS****PART I**

Item 1.	<u>Business</u>	3
Item 1A.	<u>Risk Factors</u>	16
Item 1B.	<u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	27
Item 2.	<u>Properties</u>	27
Item 3.	<u>Legal Proceedings</u>	27
Item 4.	<u>Mine Safety Disclosures</u>	27

PART II

Item 5.	<u>Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u>	28
Item 6.	<u>Selected Financial Data</u>	30
Item 7.	<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	33
Item 7A.	<u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	50
Item 8.	<u>Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>	50
Item 9.	<u>Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>	73
Item 9A.	<u>Controls and Procedures</u>	73
Item 9B.	<u>Other Information</u>	76

PART III

Item 10.	<u>Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u>	76
Item 11.	<u>Executive Compensation</u>	76
Item 12.	<u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u>	76
Item 13.	<u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u>	76
Item 14.	<u>Principal Accountant Fees and Services</u>	76

PART IV

Item 15.	<u>Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules</u>	76
	<u>Signatures</u>	77
	<u>Exhibit Index</u>	78

Table of Contents

This Annual Report on Form 10-K contains forward-looking statements that are based on the beliefs of management and assumptions made by and information currently available to them. The words expect, anticipate, believe, may, estimate, intend and similar expressions are intended to identify such forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions including those described in Risk Factors, which could cause our actual results to be materially different from results expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements.

PART I

**Item 1. Business
Overview**

TechTarget, Inc. (we or the Company) is a Delaware corporation incorporated on September 14, 1999. We are a leading provider of specialized online content and brand advertising that brings together buyers and sellers of corporate information technology (IT) products and services. We sell customized marketing programs that enable IT vendors to reach corporate IT decision makers who are actively researching specific purchases. In addition, we offer a number of data analytics solutions that help our customers more efficiently target their sales efforts.

IT professionals have become increasingly specialized, and rely on our network of over 150 websites, each of which focuses on a specific IT sector such as storage, security or networking, for key decision support information tailored to their specific areas of responsibility. We work with our advertising customers to develop customized marketing programs, often providing them with multiple offerings in order to target their desired audience of IT professionals more effectively. Our service offerings address the lead generation, project opportunity information, and branding objectives of our advertising customers. We complement our online offerings with targeted in-person events that enable advertisers to engage buyers directly at critical stages of their decision-making process for IT purchases. The majority of our revenue for 2014, 2013 and 2012 was associated with lead generation advertising, branding campaigns and IT Deal Alert , which was launched in the fourth quarter of 2012.

We enable IT professionals to navigate the complex and rapidly-changing IT landscape where purchasing decisions can have significant financial and operational consequences. Our content strategy includes three primary sources which IT professionals use to assist them in their pre-purchase research: independent content provided by our professionals, vendor-generated content provided by our customers and user-generated, or peer-to-peer, content. In addition to utilizing our independent content, registered members are able to conduct their pre-purchase research by accessing extensive vendor content across our network of websites. Our network of websites also allows users to seamlessly interact and contribute content, which is highly valued by IT professionals during their research process. As of December 31, 2014, we employed over 150 full-time editors who create original content tailored for specific audiences, which we complement with content through our association with outside industry experts.

We have approximately 15.3 million registered members as of December 31, 2014. The targeted nature of our user base enables IT vendors to reach a specialized audience efficiently because our content is highly segmented and aligned with the IT vendors' specific products and services. We have a broad customer base and, during 2014, we delivered advertising campaigns for approximately 1,300 customers.

Please refer to Item 6, Selected Financial Data, for detailed information about our revenues, net income, total assets and other financial results.

Business Trends

The following discussion highlights key trends affecting our business.

Macro-economic Conditions and Industry Trends. Because most of our customers are IT vendors, the success of our business is intrinsically linked to the health, and subject to the market conditions, of the IT industry. In 2014, we did not see any meaningful improvement in the IT market and many of our customers continue to be revenue-challenged. As a result, marketing budgets continue to be under pressure and our growth was driven in large part by the return on the investments we made in our direct international operations during the downturn as well as our data analytics suite of products, IT Deal Alert, which is driving market share gains for us. While we will continue to invest in these growth areas, management will continue to carefully control discretionary spending such as travel and entertainment, and the filling of new and replacement positions, in an effort to maintain profit margins and cash flow.

Table of Contents

Customer Demographics. In the year ended December 31, 2014, our revenue from our top 12 global customers increased by approximately 27%, our mid-sized customers (our next largest 100 customers) increased by approximately 15% and our smaller customers increased by approximately 26%, over the prior year period. We believe that the growth in these segments was primarily driven by international sales and our IT Deal Alert product portfolio, as opposed to any inherent upturn in the market. All three customer segments continued to report a challenging environment, and this translated into our customers remaining cautious with their marketing expenditures.

Available Information

Our website address is www.techtarget.com. We make our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to these reports, available free of charge through our website as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish such material to, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The SEC maintains an Internet website, at www.sec.gov, that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers that are filed electronically. Our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, and any amendments to our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics Corporate Governance Guidelines and Board Committee Charters, are also available on our website. We are not including the information contained on our website as part of, or incorporating it by reference into, this Annual Report on Form 10-K. The public may read and copy any materials that we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reading Reference Room at 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549, and the public may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330.

Industry Background

The ongoing shift in the media business from traditional print and broad-based advertising (i.e. television, radio, etc.) to targeted online advertising has continued to grow. We believe the four major trends driving this shift continue to be:

Targeted Content Channels Lead to Greater Efficiency for Advertisers. The desire of advertisers to reach customers efficiently has led to the development and proliferation of market-specific content channels throughout all forms of media. Targeted content channels increase advertising efficiency by enabling advertisers to market specifically to the audience they are trying to reach. Content providers are finding new ways, such as specialized cable television channels, magazines and events, to offer increasingly targeted content to their audience and advertisers. The Internet has enabled even more market-specific content offerings, and the proliferation of market-specific websites provides advertisers with efficient and targeted media to reach their customers.

The Internet Improves Advertisers' Ability to Increase and Measure Return on Investment. Advertisers are increasingly focused on measuring and improving their return on investment (ROI). Before the advent of Internet-based marketing, there were limited tools for accurately measuring the results of marketing campaigns in a timely fashion. The Internet has enabled advertisers to track individual users and their responses to their marketing programs. With the appropriate technology, vendors now have the ability to assess and benchmark the efficacy of their online advertising campaigns cost-effectively and in real-time. As a result, advertisers are now increasingly demanding a measurable ROI across all forms of media.

Technology Marketers and Sales Organizations are Increasingly Using Audience Data to Drive Decisions. The increasing prevalence of online advertising and of marketing and sales automation systems means that advertisers have new opportunities to leverage data strategically in their workflow. In the business technology market in particular, advertisers are in the early stages of making use of data to help them determine prospect accounts that should be prioritized for marketing or sales follow-up.

The Internet is Increasingly Critical in Researching Large, Complex and Costly Purchases. The Internet has improved the efficiency and effectiveness of researching purchases. The vast quantity of information available on the Internet, together with search engines and directories that facilitate information discovery, enables potential purchasers to draw information from many sources, including independent experts, peers and vendors, in an efficient manner. These benefits are most apparent in the research of complex and costly purchases which require information from a variety of sources. By improving the efficiency of product research, the Internet enables potential purchasers to save significant time and review a wider range of product selections most effectively.

Table of Contents

Corporate IT Purchasing

The trends toward targeted content channels, increased focus on ROI by advertisers and Internet-based product research are evident in the corporate IT market. Over the past two decades, corporate IT purchases have grown in size and complexity. The corporate IT market is comprised of multiple, large sectors, such as storage, security and networking. Each of these sectors can, in turn, be further divided into sub-sectors that contain products addressing the areas of specialization within an enterprise's IT environment. For example, within the multi-billion dollar storage sector, there are numerous sub-sectors such as storage area networks, storage management software and backup software. Furthermore, the products in each sub-sector may service entirely independent markets. For example, backup software for use in Windows® environments can be distinct from that designed for use in Linux® environments.

In view of the complexities, high cost and importance of IT decision-making, corporate IT purchasing decisions are increasingly being researched by teams of functional experts with specialized knowledge in their particular areas, rather than by one central IT professional, such as a chief information officer. The corporate IT purchasing process typically requires a lengthy sales cycle. The sales cycle is the sequence of stages that a typical customer goes through when deciding to purchase a product or service from a particular vendor. Key stages of a sales cycle typically consist of a customer recognizing or identifying a need; identifying possible solutions and vendors through research and evaluation; and finally, making a decision to purchase the product or service. Through various stages of this sales cycle, IT professionals rely upon multiple inputs from independent experts, peers and IT vendors. Although there is a vast amount of information available, the aggregation and validation of these inputs from various sources can be difficult and time-consuming.

The long sales cycle for corporate IT purchases, as well as the need for information support, requires substantial investment on the part of IT vendors, which drives the significant marketing expenditures in the corporate IT market. In addition, technology changes at an accelerated pace and there are often multiple solutions to a particular IT need. With each new product or product enhancement, IT vendors implement new advertising campaigns and IT professionals must research new technologies.

The Opportunity

Corporate IT professionals are demanding specialized websites and events tailored to the sub-sectors of IT solutions that they purchase. Prior to widespread Internet adoption, corporate IT buyers researching purchases relied largely on traditional IT media, consisting of broad print publications and large industry trade shows. As technology, vendors and IT professionals have all become much more specialized, the Internet has emerged as a preferred purchase research medium, a fact which has drastically reduced and improved research time.

IT advertisers seek high-ROI marketing platforms that provide access to the specific sectors of IT buyers that are aligned with the solutions the advertisers seek to sell. Traditional IT media companies with historically print-based revenue models service a large audience with broad content. This general approach minimizes the likelihood of a vendor reaching a buyer while he or she is actively researching the purchase of a solution that falls within the vendor's particular market sector. Although the Internet offers advertisers a superior means to reach IT buyers while they are conducting research, the web properties operated by these traditional IT media companies offer online content and audiences that are in many cases derivative of their existing print efforts. Without a more targeted marketing platform oriented to IT professionals' need for decision support for specialized IT purchases, traditional IT media companies have faced difficulty meeting the ROI needs of IT marketers.

Our Solution

Our specialized content strategy enables IT vendors to reach corporate IT professionals who are actively researching purchases in specific IT sectors. Our online network of websites is complemented by conferences, seminars and other in-person events. IT professionals rely on our platform for decision support information tailored to their specific purchasing needs. Our solution benefits from the following competitive advantages:

Large and Growing Community of Registered Members. We have approximately 15.3 million registered members as of December 31, 2014. The targeted nature of our user base enables IT vendors to reach a specialized audience efficiently because our content is highly segmented and aligned with the IT vendors specific products and services.

Strong Advertiser Relationships. Since our founding in 1999, we have developed a broad customer base. During 2014, we delivered advertising campaigns for approximately 1,300 customers.

Table of Contents

Substantial Experience in Online Media. We have over 15 years of experience in developing our online media content, with a focus on providing targeted information to IT professionals and a targeted audience to vendors. Our experience enables us to develop new online properties rapidly and to acquire and efficiently integrate select properties that further serve IT professionals. We have also developed an expertise in implementing integrated, targeted marketing campaigns designed to maximize the measurability of, and improvement in, ROI.

Proprietary Data on the Research Behavior of our Registered Members and Site Visitors. Through our Activity Intelligence product platform, we collect information on millions of interactions that our members and visitors, and the companies that they are associated with, have with the content on our websites and in our e-mails. Collection and analysis of this information allows us to increase the relevance of our informational offerings to our members and improves our advertisers ROI by allowing us to deliver more qualified prospects.

Significant Brand Recognition Among Advertisers and IT Professionals. Our brand is well-recognized by advertisers who value our integrated marketing capabilities and high-ROI advertising programs. At the same time, our sector-specific websites command brand recognition among IT professionals, who rely on these websites because of their specificity and depth of content.

Favorable Search Engine Rankings. Due to our long history of using a targeted approach toward online publishing, our network of websites has produced a large repository of archived content that allows us to appear on search result pages when users perform targeted searches on search engines such as Google. We are successful in attracting traffic from search engines, which, in turn, increases our registered membership.

Proprietary Lead Management Technology. Our proprietary lead management technology enables IT vendors to prioritize and efficiently manage the leads we provide, improving the efficacy of their sales teams and optimizing the ROI on their marketing expenditures with us.

Our solutions increase efficiency for both IT professionals and IT vendors, which facilitates the ability of IT professionals to find specific information related to their purchase decisions, while enabling IT vendors to reach IT buyers who are actively researching specific solutions related to vendors products and services. Our solutions benefit IT professionals and IT vendors in the following ways:

Benefits to IT Professionals

Provides Access to Integrated, Sector-Specific Content. Our websites provide IT professionals with sector-specific content from the three fundamental sources they value in researching IT purchasing decisions: industry experts, peers and vendors. Our independent staff of editors creates content specific to the sectors we serve and the key sub-sectors within them. This content is integrated with other content generated by our network of third-party industry experts, member-generated content and content from IT vendors. The reliability, breadth and depth, and accessibility of our content offering enable IT professionals to make more informed purchases.

Increases Efficiency of Purchasing Decisions. By accessing targeted and specialized information, IT professionals are able to research important purchasing decisions more effectively. Our integrated content offering minimizes the time spent searching for and evaluating content and maximizes the time available for consuming quality information. Furthermore, we provide this specialized, targeted content through a variety of media that together address critical stages of the purchase decision process.

Benefits to IT Vendors

Targets Active Buyers Efficiently. Our highly targeted content attracts specific, targeted audiences that are actively researching purchasing decisions. Using our registered member database and information we collect about their product interests, we are able to target further those registered members most likely to be of value to IT vendors. Advertising to a targeted audience already engaged in a potential buying decision minimizes advertiser expenditures on irrelevant audiences, increasing advertising efficiency.

Generates Measurable, High ROI. Our targeted online content offerings enable us to generate and collect valuable business information about each user and his or her technology preferences. As registered users access content, we are able to build a profile of their technology interests, and that of their company. When users access sponsored content, we are able to deliver both actionable leads and contextual intelligence to our advertisers. As a result, our advertisers are able to better prioritize and follow up with the qualified sales leads we send them, which improves the ROI on their advertising expenditures with us.

Table of Contents

Generates and Prioritizes Qualified Sales Leads. Our IT vendors also use our detailed member database and integrated advertising campaigns to identify and market to the audience members they consider to have the highest potential value. Once the leads have been delivered, our proprietary lead management technology enables customers to categorize, prioritize and market more effectively to these leads.

Maximizes Awareness and Shortens the Sales Cycle. As a leading distributor of vendor-provided IT white papers, webcasts, videocasts, virtual events and podcasts, we offer IT vendors the opportunity to educate IT professionals during the research process, prior to any direct interaction with vendor salespeople. By distributing proprietary content and reaching their target audiences via our platform, IT vendors can educate audiences, demonstrate much of their product capabilities and proactively brand themselves as specific product leaders. As a result, an IT professional is more knowledgeable about the vendor's specifications and product by the time he or she engages with the vendor. This reduces sales time and cost that would have been otherwise expended by the vendor's direct sales force.

Reaches IT Professionals at Critical Stages of the Purchase Decision Process. Because our content platform includes both online and event offerings, IT vendors can market to IT professionals at critical stages of the purchase decision process through multiple touch points. In addition to targeting IT professionals as they conduct purchase research on our website, IT vendors can have face-to-face interactions with qualified buyers seeking to finalize purchase decisions at our in-person events.

Our Strategy

Our goal is to deliver superior performance by enhancing our position as a leading provider of specialized content that connects IT professionals with IT vendors in the sectors and sub-sectors that we serve. In order to achieve this goal, we intend to:

Continue to Develop Our Content Platform and Service Offerings. We intend to continue to launch additional websites and develop our platform in order to capitalize on the ongoing shift from traditional broad-based media toward more focused online content that increases the efficiency of advertising spending. We intend to capture additional revenues from existing and new customers by continuing to develop our content and further segment it to deliver an increasingly specialized audience to the IT vendors who advertise across our media. We also intend to continue to deliver a highly engaged and growing audience to advertisers and to develop innovative marketing programs.

Expand into Complementary Sectors. We intend to complement our current offerings by continuing to expand our business in order to capitalize on strategic opportunities in existing, adjacent, or new sectors that we believe to be well-suited to our business model and core competencies. Based on our experience, we believe we are able to capitalize rapidly and cost-effectively on new market opportunities.

Continue to Expand Our International Presence. We intend to continue to expand our reach into our addressable market by increasing our presence in countries outside the United States. We have pursued this strategy by launching our own websites directed at users in the United Kingdom in 2008, India and Spain in 2009, China and Australia in 2010, and Singapore in 2012. We also expanded by acquiring the Computer

Weekly and MicroScope online properties in the United Kingdom in 2011 and E-Magine Médias SAS, which we call LeMagIT, in France in 2012. In 2013, we launched German and Portuguese language websites as well as websites directed at users in Latin America. We expect to further penetrate foreign markets by directly launching additional sector specific websites directed at these foreign locales and at additional international markets and, if deemed appropriate, making strategic acquisitions and investments in overseas entities. During 2014, approximately 30% of our total revenues were derived from international geo-targeted campaigns, where our target audience is outside North America. We believe that our integrated product offering across regions continues to resonate with international marketers and is contributing to our successful results. We plan on continuing to invest in these capabilities as we seek opportunities to increase our global reach.

Selectively Acquire or Partner with Complementary Businesses. We have used acquisitions in the past as a means of expanding our content and service offerings, web traffic and registered members. Our acquisitions to date can be classified into three categories: content-rich blogs or other individually published sites, typically generating less than one million dollars in annual revenues; early stage revenue sites, typically generating between one and five million dollars in annual revenues; and later stage revenue sites, typically generating greater than five million dollars in annual revenues. We intend to continue to pursue selected acquisition or partnership opportunities in our core markets and in adjacent markets for products with similar characteristics.

Table of Contents

Platform & Content

Our integrated content platform consists of a network of websites that we complement with targeted in-person events. At critical stages of the purchase decision process, these content offerings meet IT professionals' needs for expert, peer and IT vendor information and provide a platform on which IT vendors can launch targeted marketing campaigns that generate measurable, high ROI.

The diagram below provides a representation of the key market opportunities we address for our advertisers:

The TechTarget Universe: where serious technology buyers decide

Media Groups

Based upon the logical clustering of our users' respective job responsibilities and the marketing focus of the products being advertised by our customers, we currently categorize our content offerings to address the key market opportunities and audience extensions across nine distinct media groups. Each of these media groups services a wide range of IT vendor sectors and sub-sectors and is driven by the key areas of IT professionals' interests described below:

Security. Every aspect of enterprise computing now depends on secure connectivity, data and applications. The security sector is constantly growing to adapt to new forms of threats and to secure new technologies such as mobile devices, wireless networks and virtualized systems and cloud computing solutions. Compliance regulations, cloud computing adoption, and highly publicized identity and intellectual property thefts are driving interest and investment in increasingly sophisticated security solutions that supplement common perimeter security solutions such as firewalls and antivirus software. Our online properties in this sector, which include SearchSecurity.com, SearchCloudSecurity.com, SearchFinancialSecurity.com, and

Table of Contents

SearchMidMarketSecurity.com, offer navigable and structured guides on IT vendor and technology solutions in key sub-sectors such as network security, intrusion defense, identity management and authentication, data and application security, security-as-a-service, cloud security and security information management software.

Networking. Broadly defined, the networking market includes the hardware, software and services involved in the infrastructure and management of both Enterprise and Carrier voice and data networks. As new sub-sectors of networking have emerged and grown in importance, IT networking professionals have increasingly focused their investments in such technologies as VoIP, wireless and mobile computing, social networking and collaboration, application performance, data center fabrics, convergence, software-defined networking (SDN) and providing cloud services. Our online properties in this sector, which include SearchNetworking.com, SearchEnterpriseWAN.com, SearchUnifiedCommunications.com, SearchMobileComputing.com, SearchSDN.com and SearchTelecom.com, aim to address the specialized needs of these IT networking professionals by offering content targeted specifically to these emerging growth areas.

Storage. The storage sector consists of the market for disk storage systems and tape hardware and software that store and manage data. Growth is fueled by trends inherent in the industry, such as the ongoing need to maintain and supplement data stores, and by external factors, such as expanded compliance regulations and increased focus on disaster recovery solutions. Recent trends reflect an increased emphasis on solid state storage and cloud storage. At the same time, established storage sub-sectors, such as backup and Storage Area Networks (SAN s) have been invigorated by new technologies such as disk-based backup, continuous data protection, data deduplication and storage virtualization. Our online properties in this sector, which include SearchStorage.com, SearchDataBackup.com, SearchSMBStorage.com, SearchDisasterRecovery.com, SearchVirtualStorage.com, SearchCloudStorage.com, and SearchSolidStateStorage.com, address IT professionals seeking solutions in key sub-sectors such as fibre channel SANs, solid state storage, virtualization IP & iSCSI SANs, Network Attached Storage (NAS), backup hardware and software, and storage management software. The audience at our in-person Storage Decisions conference is comprised almost exclusively of storage decision makers from within IT organizations. This event is supplemented by regional seminars on storage topics.

Data Center and Virtualization Technologies. Data centers house the systems and components, such as servers, storage devices, routers and switches, utilized in large-scale, mission-critical computing environments. A variety of trends and new technologies have reinvigorated the data center as a priority among IT professionals. Technologies, such as blade servers, server virtualization, converged infrastructure and cloud computing, have driven renewed investment in data center-class computing solutions. Server consolidation is a focus, driven by the decline in large-scale computing prices relative to distributed computing models. These trends have put pressure on existing data center infrastructure and are driving demand for solutions that address this. For example, the deployment of high-density servers has led to increased heat output and energy consumption in data centers. Power and cooling have thus become a significant cost in IT budgets, making data center energy efficiency a priority. Our key online properties in this sector provide targeted information on the IT vendors, technologies and solutions that serve these sub-sectors. Our properties in this sector include SearchDataCenter.com, covering disaster recovery, power and cooling, mainframe and UNIX® servers, systems management, and server consolidation; SearchEnterpriseLinux.com, focused on Linux migration and infrastructures; Search400.com, covering

mid-range computing and SearchCloudComputing.com and SearchAWS.com which cover private, public and hybrid cloud infrastructure. SearchServerVirtualization.com covers the decision points and alternatives for implementing server virtualization, while SearchVMware.com focuses on managing and building out virtual environments on the most widely-installed server virtualization platform.

We also cover servers, application and desktop solutions deployed in distributed computing environments. The dominant platform, Windows, no longer represents an offering of discrete operating systems but rather a diverse computing environment with its own areas of specialization around IT. As Windows servers have become more stable and scalable, they have taken share in data centers and currently represent one of the largest server sub-sectors. Given the breadth of the Windows market, we have segmented our Windows-focused media based on IT professionals infrastructure responsibilities and purchasing focus. Our online properties in this sector include SearchWindowsServer.com, covering servers, storage, and systems management; SearchDomino.com and SearchExchange.com, each targeted toward senior management for distributed computing environments. This network of sites provides resources and advice to IT professionals pursuing solutions related to such topics as Windows backup and storage, server consolidation, and upgrade planning. SearchEnterpriseDesktop.com and LabMice.net focus on the deployment and management of end-user computing environments. SearchConsumerization.com covers the IT management issues surrounding the increasing deployment of personal technologies such as tablets and smartphones in the workplace. Combined with our two properties that focus on server virtualization, SearchVirtualDesktop.com and BrianMadden.com, each focusing on desktop virtualization, gives us a comprehensive offering addressing the fast-growing area of virtualization technologies. Our online offerings in this sector are supplemented by in-person regional seminars. Our BriForum conferences focus on desktop virtualization and related technologies.

Table of Contents

CIO/IT Strategy. Our CIO/IT Strategy media group provides content targeted at Chief Information Officers (CIOs), and senior IT executives, enabling them to make informed IT purchases throughout the critical stages of the purchase decision process. CIOs' areas of interest generally align with the major sectors of the IT market; however, CIOs increasingly are focused on the alignment between IT and their businesses operations. Data center consolidation, compliance, ITIL/IT service management, disaster recovery/business continuity, risk management and outsourcing as well as including Software as a Service (SaaS) and cloud computing have all drawn the attention of IT executives who need to understand the operational and strategic implications of these issues and technologies on their businesses. Accordingly, our targeted information resources for senior IT executives focus on ROI, implementation strategies, best practices and comparative assessment of vendor solutions related to these initiatives. Our online properties in this sector include SearchCIO.com, which provides CIOs in large enterprises with strategic information focused on critical purchasing decisions; and SearchCompliance.com, which provides advice on IT-focused regulations and standards to IT and business executives and other senior IT managers. The CIO/IT Strategy media group also includes online resources and events targeted to IT decision makers in prominent vertical industries. SearchHealthIT.com provides strategic IT purchasing information and advice to senior IT and clinical professionals in hospitals, medical centers, university health centers and other care delivery organizations, as well as organizations in the life sciences sector.

Business Applications and Analytics. Our Business Applications and Analytics media group focuses on mission critical software such as enterprise resource planning (ERP), databases and business intelligence, content management enterprise resource planning, and customer facing applications such as customer relationship management (CRM) software for mid-sized and large companies. Because these applications are critical to the overall success of the businesses that use them, there is a high demand for specialized information by IT and business professionals involved in their purchase, implementation, and ongoing support. Our applications-focused properties in this sector include SearchCRM.com, SearchOracle.com, SearchSAP.com, SearchFinancialApplications.com and SearchManufacturingERP.com. These sites are leading online resources that provide this specialized information to support mission critical business applications such as CRM, sales force automation, databases and ERP software. The information produced by these applications is seen as a corporate asset that is essential for gaining competitive advantage through informed, data-driven decisions that can help improve operational efficiency, enable business agility, and improve sales effectiveness and customer service. As a result, business intelligence and analytics have become pervasive as various organizations increasingly rely on mission critical information to optimize their businesses. Our sites BeyeNETWORK.com, SearchBusinessAnalytics.com, SearchDataManagement.com and SearchContentManagement.com, cover the business intelligence, data management, content management, and collaboration disciplines associated with such initiatives. SearchCloudApplications.com focuses on cloud-based or SaaS deployments of key business applications.

Application Architecture and Development. The application architecture and development sector is comprised of a broad landscape of tools and languages that enable developers, architects and project managers to build, customize and integrate software for their businesses. Our application architecture and development online properties focus on development in enterprise environments, the underlying languages such as .NET, Java and XML as well as related application development tools and integrated development environments (IDEs). Several trends have had a profound impact on this sector and are driving growth. The desire for business agility with more flexible and interoperable applications architecture continues to propel interest in Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) and Business Process Management (BPM). Application integration, application testing and security, as well as AJAX and rich Internet applications are also key

areas of continuing focus for vendors and developers. Our online properties in this sector include TheServerSide.com, which hosts independent communities of developers and architects; Ajaxian.com, which serves web developers of rich Internet applications and SearchWinDevelopment.com, which serves Windows developers who use the .Net platform. SearchSoftwareQuality.com offers content focused on application testing and quality assurance while SearchSOA.com and eBizQ.net serve Architects, IT Managers and Line of Business Executives who are interested in building out service oriented architectures, BPM and working with related technologies.

Channel. Our Channel sites address the information needs of channel professionals which we have classified as resellers, value added resellers, solution providers, systems integrators, service providers, managed service providers, and consultants in the IT market. As IT professionals have become more specialized, IT vendors have actively sought resellers with specific expertise in the vendors sub-sectors. Like IT professionals, channel professionals require more focused technical content in order to operate successful businesses in the markets in which they compete. The resulting dynamics in the IT channel are

Table of Contents

well-suited to our integrated, targeted content strategy. Our online properties in this sector include SearchITChannel.com and SearchCloudProvider.com. In addition to these websites, TechTarget channel media is able to profile channel professionals accessing information on any website within the TechTarget Network. As channel professionals resell, service and support hardware, software and services from vendors in a particular IT sector, the key areas of focus tend to parallel those for the sub-sectors addressed by our IT-focused properties: for storage, backup, storage virtualization and network storage solutions such as fibre channel SANs, NAS, IP SANs; for security, intrusion defense, compliance and identity management; for networking, wireless, network security and VoIP; for systems, consolidation, cloud, converged infrastructure and server virtualization.

TechnologyGuide.com. We operate a portfolio of Internet content sites that provide product reviews, price comparisons and user forums for technology products such as laptops, desktops and smartphones. Sites include NotebookReview.com , Brighthand.com (covering smartphones), TabletPCReview.com , PrinterComparison.com, DesktopReview.com, DigitalCameraReview.com and TechnologyGuide.com, which covers the personal technology segment as a whole. These sites represent an ideal complement to our enterprise-IT-focused TechTarget sites because IT professionals purchase a large volume of laptops, desktops, smartphones and mobile computing devices. Thus, these sites offer additional, complementary, in-depth content for our IT audience, as well as access for our advertisers to the broader audiences that visit these sites for information.

User Generated Content and Vendor Content

ITKnowledgeExchange.com is a site devoted entirely to user generated content and represents our most concerted effort to date to facilitate peer-to-peer interaction amongst our users via blogs and a Q&A section. The site incorporates a number of important social media features, such as the use of tag-based navigation that allows users to self-classify content, and wiki-based Q&A functionality that allows them to collaborate with one another to respond to technical questions and product recommendations submitted by other users.

Bitpipe.com and KnowledgeStorm.com are sites that we operate and that host vendor-provided content such as white papers, software downloads, videocasts and webcasts. Maintaining centralized collections of this vendor content helps our users conduct pre-purchase research more easily and allows us to maximize the ability of this content to be found by search engines. We provide contextually relevant inclusion of vendor content from Bitpipe.com and KnowledgeStorm.com on the other sites in our network.

Media Offerings

We use both online and event offerings to provide IT vendors with numerous touch points to reach key IT decision makers and to provide IT professionals with highly specialized content across multiple forms of media. We are experienced in assisting advertisers to develop custom advertising programs that maximize branding and ROI. The following is a description of the services we offer:

Online Offerings

Core Online. Our network of websites forms the core of our content platform. Our websites provide IT professionals with comprehensive decision support information tailored to their specific areas of responsibility and purchasing decisions. Through our websites, we offer a variety of online media offerings to connect IT vendors to IT professionals.

Lead Generation. Our lead generation offerings allow IT vendors to maximize ROI by capturing qualified sales leads from the distribution and promotion of content to our audience of IT professionals. All of our lead generation campaigns offer the Activity Intelligence Dashboard, a technology platform that gives our customers marketers and sales representatives a real-time view of their prospects, which includes insights on the research activities of technology buying teams, including at an account level. Lead generation offerings may also include an additional service, TechTarget Re-Engage (formerly called Nurture & Qualify), which helps both technology marketers and their sales teams to identify highly active prospects, detect emerging projects, retarget interested buying teams, and accelerate engagement with specific accounts.

Our lead generation offerings may also include the syndication of the following:

White Papers. White papers are technical documents created by IT vendors to describe business or technical problems which are addressed by the vendors products or services. As part of a lead generation campaign, we post white papers on our relevant websites and our users receive targeted promotions about these content assets. Prior to viewing white papers, our registered members and visitors supply their corporate contact information and agree to receive further information from the vendor. The corporate contact and other qualification information for these leads are supplied to the vendor in real time through our proprietary lead management software.

Table of Contents

Webcasts, Podcasts, Videocasts and Virtual Trade Shows. Webcasts, podcasts, videocasts, virtual trade shows and similar content bring informational sessions directly to attendees' desktops and mobile devices. As is the case with white papers, our users supply their corporate contact and qualification information to the webcast, podcast, videocast or virtual trade show sponsor when they view or download the content.

Sponsorship includes access to the registrant information and visibility before, during and after the event.

Branding. Our branding offerings provide IT vendors exposure to targeted audiences of IT professionals actively researching information related to their products and services and include display advertising (including banners) and custom offerings. Display advertising can be purchased on specific websites within our network and against specific audience or technology segments. Through an offering called Spoke, we can also provide our advertisers with brand exposure to our audience outside of our network of owned and operated websites, with the same types of targeting criteria available within our network. These offerings give IT vendors the ability to increase their brand awareness to highly specialized IT sectors.

Custom Content Creation. In support of our advertisers' lead generation programs, we will sometimes create white papers, case studies, webcasts, videos or even entire microsites to our customers' specifications through our Custom Media team. These customized content assets are then promoted to our audience in the context of the advertisers' lead generation programs. Our custom offerings allow customers to have content or entire microsites created that focus on topics related to their marketing objectives and include promotion of these vehicles to our users, which includes IT professionals and buyers of IT products.

Content Sponsorships. IT vendors, or groups of vendors, pay us to sponsor independent editorially created content vehicles on specific technology topics where the registrant information is then provided to all participating sponsors. In some cases, these vehicles are supported by multiple sponsors in a single segment, with the registrant information provided to all participating sponsors. Because these offerings are editorially driven, advertisers get the benefit of association with independently created content as well as access to qualified sales leads that are researching the topic.

List Rentals. We also offer IT vendors the ability to message registered members on topics related to their interests by renting our e-mail and postal lists of registered members, which is organized using specific criteria such as company size, geography or job title.

Third Party Revenue Sharing Arrangements. We have revenue sharing arrangements with certain third parties to allow for the licensing of our online content, for the renting of our database of opted-in e-mail subscribers and to allow advertising from customers of certain third parties to be made available to our website visitors. In each of these arrangements we are paid a share of the resulting revenue.

IT Deal Alert. IT Deal Alert is a suite of services for advertisers that leverages the detailed purchase intent data that we collect about end-user IT organizations. Through proprietary scoring methodologies, we use this data to help advertisers identify and prioritize accounts whose content consumption around specific IT topics indicates that they are in-market for a particular product or service. We also use the data directly to identify and further profile accounts' upcoming purchase plans.

IT Deal Alert: Qualified Sales Opportunities is a product that profiles specific in-progress purchase projects, including information on scope and purchase considerations.

Edgar Filing: TechTarget Inc - Form 10-K

IT Deal Alert: Priority Engine (a rebranding of Account Watch , which we launched in 2014) is a subscription service powered by our Activity Intelligence platform which integrates with salesforce.com. The service delivers information to allow marketers and sales personnel to identify accounts actively researching new technology purchases, and to reach active prospects within those organizations that are relevant to the purchase.

IT Deal Alert: Deal Data is a customized solution aimed at sales intelligence and data scientist functions within our customers that makes our Activity Intelligence data directly consumable by the customer's internal applications. Deal Data is being introduced in the first quarter of 2015.

Events

Most of our media groups operate revenue-generating events. The majority of our events are free to IT professionals and are sponsored by IT vendors. Attendees are pre-screened based on event-specific criteria such as sector-specific budget size, company size, or job title. We offer three types of events: multi-day conferences, single-day seminars and custom events. Multi-day

Table of Contents

conferences provide independent content provided by our professionals to our attendees and allow vendors to purchase exhibit space and other sponsorship offerings that enable interaction with the attendees. We also hold single-day seminars on various topics in major cities. These seminars provide independent content provided by our professionals on key sub-topics in the sectors we serve, are free to qualified attendees, and offer multiple vendors the ability to interact with specific, targeted audiences actively focused on buying decisions. Our custom events differ from our seminars in that they are exclusively sponsored by a single IT vendor and the content is driven primarily by the sole sponsor.

Customers

We market to IT vendors targeting a specific audience within an IT sector or sub-sector. We maintain multiple points of contact with our customers in order to provide support throughout a given organization and during critical stages of the sales cycle. As a result, individual customers often run multiple advertising programs with us in order to reach discrete portions of our targeted audience. Our services are generally delivered under short-term contracts that run for the length of a given advertising program, typically less than six months. Since our founding in 1999, we have developed a broad customer base that now comprises approximately 1,300 active advertisers. During 2014, no single customer represented 10% or more of total revenue.

Please refer to Note 13 – Segment Information in the accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for geographic data related to our revenues and long-lived assets.

Sales and Marketing

Since our inception in 1999, we have maintained an internal direct sales department that works closely with existing and potential customers to develop customized marketing programs that provide highly targeted access to IT professionals. We organize the sales force by the sector-specific media groups that we operate and have a global accounts team that works with our largest advertisers. We believe that our sector-specific sales organization and integrated approach to our service offerings allows our sales personnel to develop a high level of expertise in the specific sectors they cover and to create effective marketing programs tailored to the customer's specific objectives. As of December 31, 2014, our sales and marketing staff consisted of approximately 312 people. The majority of our sales staff is located in our Newton, Massachusetts headquarters and our offices in San Francisco, California and London, England.

We pursue a variety of marketing initiatives designed to support our sales activities by building awareness of our brand to IT vendors and positioning ourselves as a thought leader in ROI-based marketing. These initiatives include purchasing online and event sponsorships in media vehicles that target the technology advertising market, as well as engaging in direct communications with the database of advertising contacts we have built since inception. Examples of our direct communications include selected e-mail updates on new product launches and initiatives. We also produce in-person events, videocasts and white papers for technology marketers where we provide information on the latest best practices in the field of online marketing. Additionally, we publish a blog for marketers which we use as a thought leadership vehicle to promote our ideas and viewpoints on a myriad of online subjects.

Online User Acquisition

Our primary source of traffic to our websites is through non-paid traffic sources, such as our existing registered member base and organic search engine traffic. Organic search engine traffic is also the primary source of new registered members for our sites. Because our sites focus on specific sectors of the IT market, our content is highly targeted and is an effective means for attracting search engine traffic and resulting members. We also make

user-focused marketing expenditures designed to supplement our non-paid traffic and registered members. We employ a variety of online marketing vehicles such as keyword advertising on the major search engines and targeted list rentals of opt-in e-mail subscribers from a variety of targeted media sources.

Technological Infrastructure

We have developed an expandable operations infrastructure using hardware and software systems from established IT vendors to maintain our websites and online offerings. Our system hardware is co-located at an offsite data center. All of the critical components of the system are redundant, allowing us to withstand unexpected component failure and to undergo maintenance and upgrades. Our infrastructure is scalable, enabling us to make additions that fit into the existing environment as our system requirements grow based on traffic and member growth. Our critical data is copied daily to backup tapes, which are sent to an off-site storage facility. We maintain a quality assurance process to constantly monitor our servers, processes and network connectivity. We have implemented these various redundancies and backup systems in order to minimize the risk associated with damage from fire, power loss,

Table of Contents

telecommunications failure, break-ins, computer viruses and other events beyond our control. We believe that continued development of our technological infrastructure is critical to our success. We have made, and expect to continue to make, technological improvements in this infrastructure to improve our ability to service our users and customers.

Competition

We compete for potential advertisers with a number of different types of companies, including: broad-based media outlets, such as television, newspapers and business periodicals that are designed to reach a wide audience; general purpose portals and search engines; and offline and online offerings of media companies that produce content specifically for IT professionals. The market for advertisers is highly competitive, and in each of the sectors we serve as well as across the services we offer, our primary competitors are the media companies that produce content specifically for IT professionals. Our primary competitors for advertisers, each of which possess substantial resources to compete, are United Business Media, QuinStreet, International Data Group, and CBS Interactive/ CNet. In the online market we generally compete on the basis of target audience, quality and uniqueness of information content, ease of use of our websites for IT professionals, and the quality and quantity of sales leads generated for advertisers. Our events generally compete on the basis of the quality and integrity of our content offerings, the quality of our attendees, and the ability to provide events that meet the needs of particular sector segments. As with the competition for advertisers, we compete for the users who comprise our target audiences primarily with the media companies that produce content specifically for IT professionals such as United Business Media, QuinStreet, International Data Group, and CBS Interactive/CNet. As we continue to expand internationally, we expect to compete with many of the competitors mentioned above, as well as with established media companies based in particular countries or geographical regions.

User Privacy

We gather in-depth business information about our registered members who consent to provide us such information through one or more of the online registration forms displayed on our websites. We also gather information about users of certain content on our websites by tracking their content consumption or the content consumption of the companies they work for. We post our privacy policies on our websites so that our users can access and understand the terms and conditions applicable to the collection and use of their information. Our privacy policies disclose the types of information we gather, how we use it, and how a user can correct or change this information, including how a user can unsubscribe to our communications and those of our partners. Our privacy policies also explain the circumstances under which we share a user's information and with whom. Users who register for our websites have the option of indicating specific areas of interest in which they are willing to receive offers via e-mail or postal mail; these offers contain content created either by us or our third-party IT vendor customers. To protect our obligations to our users, we impose constraints that are generally consistent with our privacy policies on the customers to whom we provide user data. Additionally, when we provide lists to third parties, including to our advertiser customers, it is under contractual terms that are generally consistent with our obligations to users set forth in our privacy policies as well as applicable laws and regulations.

Consumer Protection Regulation

General. Advertising and promotional activities presented to visitors on our websites are subject to federal and state consumer protection laws that regulate unfair and deceptive practices. We are also subject to various other federal and state consumer protection laws, including the ones described below. With respect to our non-U.S. business, we are also subject to the laws and regulations of various other jurisdictions in which we target users. With respect to our non-U.S. business, we are also subject to the laws and regulations of various other jurisdictions in which we target

users.

CAN-SPAM Act. The Controlling the Assault of Non-Solicited Pornography and Marketing Act of 2003, (the CAN-SPAM Act), became effective on January 1, 2004. The CAN-SPAM Act regulates commercial e-mails and provides a right on the part of the recipient to request the sender to stop sending messages, and establishes penalties for the sending of e-mail messages that are intended to deceive the recipient as to source or content. Under the CAN-SPAM Act, senders of commercial e-mails (and other persons who initiate those e-mails) are required to make sure that those e-mails do not contain false or misleading transmission information. Commercial e-mails are required to include a valid return e-mail address and other subject heading information so that the sender and the Internet location from which the message has been sent are accurately identified. Recipients must be furnished with an electronic method of informing the sender of the recipient's decision not to receive further commercial e-mails. In addition, the e-mail must include a postal address of the sender and notice that the e-mail is an advertisement. The CAN-SPAM Act may apply to the e-newsletters that our websites distribute to registered members and to some of our other commercial e-mail communications. However, on May 12, 2008, the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (the FTC) issued additional regulations related to the CAN-SPAM Act, including interpretations of such act that indicate that e-newsletters, such as those we distribute to our registered members, will be

Table of Contents

exempt from most of the provisions of the CAN-SPAM Act. At this time, we are applying the applicable CAN-SPAM requirements to e-newsletters and all other e-mail communications, and believe that our e-mail practices comply with the requirements of the CAN-SPAM Act.

Other Consumer Protection Regulation. The FTC and many state attorneys general are applying federal and state consumer protection laws to require that the online collection, use and dissemination of data, and the presentation of web site content, comply with certain standards for notice, choice, security and access. In many cases, the specific limitations imposed by these standards are subject to interpretation by courts and other governmental authorities, and courts may adopt these developments as law. In addition, on December 20, 2007, the FTC published for public comment proposed principles to address consumer privacy issues that may arise from so-called behavioral targeting (i.e. the tracking of a user's online activities in order to deliver advertising tailored to his or her interests) and to encourage industry self-regulation for public content. On February 12, 2009, following public comment, the FTC released a Staff Report with its revised principles for self-regulation of behavioral targeting. Although the FTC excluded from the principles both first-party behavioral advertising and contextual advertising (each being the types of behavioral targeting activities in which we are currently primarily engaged), with respect to other types of behavioral targeting that include the storage of more, and potentially sensitive, data or that collects information outside of the traditional Web site context (such as through a mobile device or by an ISP), the FTC has stated that it will continue to evaluate self-regulatory programs. Further, through a preliminary Staff Report published on December 1, 2010, the FTC indicated that it is considering regulations regarding behavioral targeting which may include implementation of a more rigorous opt-in regime. An opt-in policy would prohibit businesses from collecting and using information obtained through behavioral targeting activities from individuals who have not voluntarily consented. In 2012, the FTC issued further clarifying guidance regarding consumer privacy and data collection with a particular focus on the mobile environment. A few states have also introduced legislation that, if enacted, would restrict or prohibit behavioral advertising within the state. In the absence of a federal law pre-empting their enforcement, such state legislation would likely have the practical effect of regulating behavioral advertising nationwide because of the difficulties behind implementing state-specific policies or identifying the location of a particular consumer.

In addition, several foreign governmental bodies, including the European Union, the United Kingdom, France and Canada have regulations dealing with the collection and use of personal information obtained from their citizens, some of which we may be subject to as a result of the expansion of our business internationally. Regulations in these territories have focused on the collection, use, disclosure and security of information that may be used to identify or that actually identifies an individual, such as an e-mail address or a name. Further, within the European Union, certain member state data protection authorities regard IP addresses as personal information, and legislation adopted recently in the European Union and France requires informed consent for the placement of a cookie on a user device. We believe that we are in compliance with the regulations that apply to us; however, such laws may be modified and new laws may be enacted in the future.

We believe that we are operating our business in compliance with the regulations that apply to us. However, such laws may be modified or subject to interpretation by governmental agencies or the courts, or, new laws may be enacted in the future, all of which could impact our business and results of operations.

Intellectual Property

We regard our copyrights, domain names, trademarks, trade secrets and similar intellectual property as important to our success, and we rely upon copyright, trademark and trade secrets laws, as well as confidentiality agreements with our employees and others, and protective contractual provisions, to protect the proprietary technologies and content that we have developed. We pursue the registration of our material trademarks in the United States and elsewhere. Currently, our TechTarget trademark and logo, as well as the KnowledgeStorm and certain other marks and logos, are

registered federally in the United States and selected foreign jurisdictions and we have applied for U.S. and foreign registrations for various other marks. In addition, we have registered over 1,500 domain names that are or may be relevant to our business, including www.techtarget.com, www.knowledgestorm.com, www.bitpipe.com, www.technologyguide.com and those leveraging the search prefix used in the branding of many of our websites. We also incorporate a number of third-party software products into our technology platform pursuant to relevant licenses. Some of this software is proprietary and some is open source. We use third-party software to maintain and enhance, among other things, the content generation and delivery, and support our technology infrastructure. We are not substantially dependent upon these third-party software licenses, and we believe the licensed software is generally replaceable, by either licensing or purchasing similar software from another vendor or building the software functions ourselves.

Table of Contents

Employees

As of December 31, 2014, we had 686 employees. Other than a small number of employees in the United Kingdom and France, none of our current employees is represented by a labor union or is the subject of a collective bargaining agreement.

Seasonality

The timing of our revenues is affected by seasonal factors. Our revenues are seasonal primarily as a result of the annual budget approval process of many of our customers, the normal timing at which our customers have their new product introductions, and the historical decrease in advertising and events activity in summer months. Events revenue may vary depending on which quarters we produce the event, which may vary when compared to previous periods. The timing of revenues in relation to our expenses, much of which does not vary directly with revenue, has an impact on the cost of online revenues, selling and marketing, product development, and general and administrative expenses as a percentage of revenue in each calendar quarter during the year.

The majority of our expenses are personnel-related and include salaries, stock-based compensation, benefits and incentive-based compensation plan expenses. As a result, we have not experienced significant seasonal fluctuations in the timing of our expenses period to period.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

Our business is subject to various risks and uncertainties which may affect our business, our operating results and our share price, among other things. Any of the following risks or uncertainties could adversely impact our business, financial condition and operating results, among other things.

Risks Relating to Our Business and Operations

Because we depend on our ability to generate revenues from the sale of advertising campaigns, fluctuations in advertising spending could have an adverse effect on our operating results.

The primary source of our revenues is the sale of advertising campaigns to our customers. Our advertising revenues accounted for substantially all of our total revenues for the twelve months ended December 31, 2014. We believe that advertising spending on the Internet, as in traditional media, fluctuates significantly as a result of a variety of factors, many of which are outside of our control. These factors include:

variations in expenditures by advertisers due to budgetary constraints;

the cancellation or delay of projects by advertisers;

the cyclical and discretionary nature of advertising spending;

general economic conditions, as well as economic conditions specific to the Internet and online and offline media industry; and

the occurrence of extraordinary events, such as natural disasters and international or domestic political and economic unrest.

Because all of our customers are in the IT industry, our revenues are subject to characteristics of the IT industry that can affect advertising spending by IT vendors.

Because all of our clients are in the IT industry, the success of our business is closely linked to the health, and subject to market conditions, of the IT industry. The IT industry is characterized by, among other things, volatile quarterly results, uneven sales patterns, short product life cycles, rapid technological developments and frequent new product introductions and enhancements. As a result, our customers' advertising budgets, which are often viewed as discretionary expenditures, may increase or decrease significantly over a short period of time. Many of our customers have reassessed and will, for the foreseeable future, be likely to continue to scrutinize their spending on advertising campaigns. Prior market downturns in the IT industry have resulted in declines in advertising spending, which can cause longer sales cycles, deferral or delay of purchases by IT vendors and generally reduced expenditures for advertising and related services. Our revenues and profitability depend on the overall demand for advertising services from our customers. We believe that demand for our offerings has been in the past, and could be in the future, disproportionately affected by fluctuations, disruptions, instability or downturns in the IT industry, which may cause customers and potential customers to exit the industry or delay, cancel or reduce any planned expenditures for our advertising offerings. Any slowdown in the formation of new IT companies, or decline in the growth of existing IT companies, may cause a decline in demand for our offerings.

Table of Contents

In addition, the advertising budgets of our customers may fluctuate as a result of:

weakness in corporate IT spending, resulting in a decline in IT advertising spending, a continued trend that we have seen and that may continue;

increased concentration in the IT industry as a result of consolidations, leading to a decrease in the number of current and prospective customers, as well as an overall reduction in advertising;

reduced spending by combined entities following such consolidations; and

the timing of advertising campaigns around new product introductions and initiatives.

Our future growth will depend in large part on continued increased sales of our IT Deal Alert product suite.

In 2013, we began selling a new suite of products called IT Deal Alert, which is based on our Activity Intelligence analytics. The IT Deal Alert product suite currently consists of Qualified Sales Opportunities and Account Watch, which was rebranded as Priority Engine in 2015. Our increase in revenues in the year ended December 31, 2014, compared to the comparable period of 2013, was, in part, attributable to sales of IT Deal Alert products. We expect that IT Deal Alert, as well as the expansion of our IT Deal Alert product offerings, will be major components of our future growth. The failure of our IT Deal Alert products to meet anticipated sales levels, our inability to continue to expand successfully our IT Deal Alert product suite, or the failure of our current or new IT Deal Alert products to achieve and then maintain widespread customer acceptance could have a material adverse effect on our business and financial results. In addition, competitors may develop a service or application that is similar to our IT Deal Alert product suite, which could also result in reduced sales for those product offerings.

Our revenues are primarily derived from short-term contracts that may not be renewed.

The primary source of our revenues is the sale of advertising to our customers, and we expect that this will continue to be the case for the foreseeable future. Our advertising contracts are primarily short-term, typically six months or less, and are generally subject to termination without substantial penalty by the customer at any time, generally with minimal notice requirements. We cannot assure you that our current customers will fulfill their obligations under their existing contracts, continue to participate in our existing programs beyond the terms of their existing contracts or enter into any additional contracts for new programs that we offer. In addition, our efforts to enter into longer term arrangements with customers for our IT Deal Alert services may not be successful. If a significant number of advertisers or a few large advertisers decided not to continue advertising on our websites or conducting or sponsoring events, we could experience a rapid decline in our revenues over a relatively short period of time.

If we are unable to deliver content and services that attract and retain a critical mass of users, our ability to attract advertisers may be affected, which could in turn have an adverse effect on our revenues.

Our success depends on our continued ability to deliver original and compelling content and services to attract and retain users, as well as our ability to garner a critical mass of users of our websites. Our user base is comprised of corporate IT professionals who demand specialized websites and events tailored to the sectors of the IT products for which they are responsible and that they purchase. Our content and services may not continue to attract and retain a

critical mass of users necessary to attract advertisers and generate revenues consistent with our historical results and expectations of future results. We also may not develop new content or services in a timely or cost-effective manner. Our ability to develop and produce this specialized content successfully is subject to numerous uncertainties, including our ability to:

anticipate and respond successfully to rapidly changing IT developments and preferences to ensure that our content remains timely and interesting to our users;

attract and retain qualified editors, writers and technical personnel;

fund new development for our programs and other offerings;

successfully expand our content offerings into new platform and delivery mechanisms; and

promote and strengthen the brands of our websites and our name.

If we are not successful in maintaining and growing our user base through the deployment of targeted and compelling content, our ability to retain and attract advertisers may be affected, which could in turn have an adverse effect on our revenues.

Table of Contents

We depend upon Internet search engines to attract a significant portion of the users who visit our websites, and if we were listed less prominently in search result listings as a result of changes in the search engines' algorithms or otherwise, our business and operating results would be harmed.

We derive a significant portion of our website traffic from users who search for IT purchasing content through Internet search engines, such as Google, MSN, Bing and Yahoo!. A critical factor in attracting users to our websites is whether we are prominently displayed in response to an Internet search relating to IT content. Search result listings are determined and displayed in accordance with a set of formulas or algorithms developed by the particular Internet search engine. The algorithms determine the order of the listing of results in response to the user's Internet search. From time to time, search engines revise their algorithms. In some instances, these modifications may cause our websites to be listed less prominently in unpaid search results, which will result in decreased traffic from search engine users to our websites. Our websites may also become listed less prominently in unpaid search results for other reasons, such as search engine technical difficulties, search engine technical changes and changes we make to our websites. In addition, search engines have deemed the practices of some companies to be inconsistent with search engine guidelines and have decided not to list their websites in search result listings at all. Although in certain cases, we could mitigate algorithm changes affecting our traffic with increased marketing expenditures. If we are listed less prominently or not at all, in search result listings, traffic to our websites could decline, which could impact our operating results. Increased marketing spend to increase site traffic could also impact our results of operations.

There are a number of risks associated with expansion of our business internationally that could adversely affect our business.

Approximately 22% of our revenues for the year ended December 31, 2014 were derived from customers with billing addresses outside of North America. Additionally, approximately 30% of our revenues were derived from geo-targeted campaigns, which are campaigns that are targeted at users who reside outside of North America. We have offices in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Singapore and Australia, as well as operations in China. We also publish websites in Spanish, French, German, Portuguese and Chinese, targeting users worldwide who speak those languages.

In addition to many of the same challenges we face domestically, there are additional risks and costs to doing business in international markets, including:

limitations on our activities in foreign countries where we have granted rights to existing business partners;

the degree to which our foreign-based customers transition from print to online advertising;

the adaptation of our websites and advertising programs to meet local needs;

our foreign-based competitors having greater resources and more established relationships with local advertisers;

more restrictive data protection regulation, which may vary by country and for which there may be little or no guidance;

more extensive labor regulation, which may vary by country;

difficulties in staffing and managing multinational operations;

difficulties in finding appropriate foreign licensees or joint venture partners;

distance, language and cultural differences in doing business with foreign entities;

foreign political and economic uncertainty;

less extensive adoption of the Internet as an information source and increased restriction on the content of websites;

currency exchange-rate fluctuations; and

potential adverse tax requirements.

As a result, we may face difficulties and unforeseen expenses in expanding our business internationally and, even if we attempt to do so, we may be unsuccessful, which could harm our business, operating results and financial condition.

There are risks of doing business in China as a telecommunications company that include an inability to own a Chinese operating company.

There are substantial risks and uncertainties regarding the interpretation and application of the laws and regulations of the People's Republic of China, or PRC, including, but not limited to, the laws and regulations governing our business in the PRC, and the enforcement and performance of the contractual arrangements between our wholly-owned subsidiary, TechTarget (Beijing) Information Technology Consulting Co., Ltd, or TTGT China, and our affiliated Chinese entity, Keji Wangtuo (Beijing) Information Technology Co., Ltd, or Keji Wangtuo, and its shareholders. We are considered a foreign person under PRC law. As a result, we are subject to PRC law limitations on foreign ownership of companies engaged in value-added telecommunications services, including

Table of Contents

internet and advertising services. Accordingly, we operate our websites and our online advertising business in China through Keji Wangtuo, a company wholly-owned by two citizens of the PRC; we have no equity ownership interest in Keji Wangtuo. Keji Wangtuo holds the licenses and approvals necessary to operate our websites and online advertising business in China. Through our wholly-owned subsidiary, TTGT China, we have contractual arrangements with Keji Wangtuo and its shareholders that allow us to substantially control and operate Keji Wangtuo and give us the economic benefit of those operations. We cannot be sure that we will be able to enforce these contracts or that they will be as effective in exercising control over Keji Wangtuo as direct ownership. Although we believe we are in compliance with current PRC regulations, we cannot be sure that the Chinese government would agree that our operating and equity arrangements with Keji Wangtuo comply with Chinese law. If the Chinese government determines that we are not in compliance with applicable law, it could revoke our business and operating licenses, require us to discontinue or restrict our operations, restrict our right to collect revenues, block our websites in China, require us to restructure our Chinese operations, impose additional conditions or requirements with which we may not be able to comply, impose restrictions on our business operations or on our customers, or take other regulatory or enforcement actions against us that could be harmful to our business in China.

Competition for advertisers is intense, and we may not compete successfully, which could result in a material reduction in our market share, the number of our advertisers and our revenues.

We compete for potential advertisers with a number of different types of offerings and companies, including: broad-based media outlets, such as television, newspapers and business periodicals that are designed to reach a wide audience; general purpose portals and search engines; and offline and online offerings of media companies that produce content specifically for IT professionals, including International Data Group, United Business Media, QuinStreet and CNet. Advertisers may choose our competitors over us not only because they prefer our competitors online and events offerings to ours but also because advertisers prefer to utilize other forms of advertising offered by our competitors that are not offered by us and/or to diversify their advertising expenditures. Many of our current and potential competitors have longer operating histories, larger customer bases, greater brand recognition and significantly greater financial, marketing and other resources than we have. They may also offer different pricing than we do which could be more attractive to advertisers. Competitors have historically and may continue to respond to market conditions by lowering prices to try to attract our customers. As a result, we could lose market share to our competitors in one or more of our businesses and our revenues could decline.

We may not innovate at a successful pace, which could harm our operating results.

Our industry is rapidly adopting new technologies and standards to create and satisfy the demands of users and advertisers. It is critical that we continue to innovate by anticipating and adapting to these changes to ensure that our content-delivery, lead generation and IT Deal Alert products and services remain effective and interesting to our users, advertisers and partners. In addition, we may need to make significant expenditures to achieve these goals. If we fail to accomplish these goals, we may lose users and the advertisers that seek to reach those users, which could harm our operating results. Existing and planned efforts to develop new products, including any subscription-based offerings, may be costly and ultimately not successful.

We may be unable to continue to build awareness of our brands, which could negatively impact our business and cause our revenues to decline.

Building and maintaining recognition of our brands is critical to attracting and retaining our user base. We intend to continue to build existing brands and introduce new brands that will resonate with our targeted audiences. In order to promote our brands, we may find it necessary to increase our marketing budget, hire additional marketing and public relations personnel or otherwise increase our financial commitment to creating and maintaining brand loyalty among

our clients. If we fail to promote and maintain our brands effectively, or incur excessive expenses attempting to promote and maintain our brands, our business and financial results may suffer.

If we do not retain our key personnel, our ability to execute our business strategy will be adversely affected.

Our continued success depends to a significant extent upon the recruitment, retention and effective succession of our executive officers and key management. Our management team has significant industry experience and would be difficult to replace. These individuals possess sales, marketing, financial and administrative skills that are critical to the operation of our business. The competition for these employees is intense. The loss of the services of one or more of our key personnel could have a material adverse effect on our business and operating results.

Table of Contents

We may not be able to attract, hire and retain qualified personnel cost-effectively, which could impact the quality of our content and services and the effectiveness and efficiency of our management, resulting in increased costs and losses in revenues.

Our success depends on our ability to attract, hire and retain qualified technical, editorial, sales and marketing, customer support, financial and accounting and other managerial personnel at commercially reasonable rates. The competition for personnel in the industries in which we operate is intense. Our personnel may terminate their employment at any time for any reason. Loss of personnel may also result in increased costs for replacement hiring and training. If we fail to attract and hire new personnel or retain and motivate our current personnel, we may not be able to operate our businesses effectively or efficiently, serve our customers properly or maintain the quality of our content and services. In particular, our success depends in significant part on maintaining and growing an effective sales force. This dependence involves a number of challenges, including:

the need to hire, integrate, motivate and retain additional sales and sales support personnel;

the need to train new sales personnel, many of whom lack sales experience when they are hired; and

competition from other companies in hiring and retaining sales personnel.

We may fail to identify or successfully acquire and integrate businesses, products and technologies that would otherwise enhance our service offerings to our customers and users, and as a result our revenues may decline or fail to grow.

We have acquired, and in the future may acquire or invest in, complementary businesses, products or technologies. Acquisitions and investments involve numerous risks including:

difficulty in assimilating the operations and personnel of acquired businesses;

potential disruption of our ongoing businesses and distraction of our management and the management of acquired companies;

difficulty in incorporating acquired technology and rights into our offerings and services, which could result in additional expenses and/or technical difficulties in delivering our product offerings;

potential failure to achieve additional sales and enhance our customer base through cross marketing of the combined company's services to new and existing customers;

potential detrimental impact to our pricing based on the historical pricing of any acquired business with common clients and the market generally;

potential litigation resulting from our business combinations or acquisition activities; and

potential unknown liabilities associated with the acquired businesses.

Our inability to integrate any acquired business successfully, or the failure to achieve any expected synergies, could result in increased expenses and a reduction in expected revenues or revenue growth. As a result, our revenues, results of operations or stock price could fluctuate or decline. In addition, we may not be able to identify or successfully complete acquisitions, which could impact our ability to expand into complementary sectors in the future.

General domestic and global economic, business or industry conditions and financial market instability may adversely affect our business, as well as our ability to forecast financial results.

The U.S. and international economies have experienced inconsistent, unpredictable growth and a certain degree of instability, magnified at times by factors including changes in the availability of credit, volatile business and consumer confidence and unemployment. These and other macro-economic conditions have contributed to unpredictable changes in the global economy and expectations of future global economic growth. If the economic climate in the United States and abroad remains as it is or deteriorates, our customers or potential customers could reduce or delay their purchases of our offerings, which would adversely impact our revenues and our ability to sell our offerings, collect customer receivables and, ultimately, our profitability.

Because all components of our budgeting and forecasting are dependent upon estimates of growth or contraction in the economy generally, and the IT market specifically, it can be difficult for us to accurately estimate future income and expenditures. We cannot predict the duration of current economic conditions or the duration or strength of an economic recovery in the U.S. or worldwide generally or in the IT industry or in any of its segments. Further adverse changes may occur as a result of global, domestic or regional economic conditions, changing consumer confidence, unemployment, declines in stock markets, or other factors affecting economic conditions generally. These changes may negatively affect the sales of our offerings, increase exposure to losses from bad debts, increase the cost and decrease the availability of financing, or increase the risk of loss on investments. Any recent growth we have experienced internationally would be negatively affected by any future global downturn.

Table of Contents

Risks Related to Data Privacy, Security and Intellectual Property Rights

We may have limited protection of our intellectual property rights, which others could infringe.

Our success and ability to compete are dependent in part on the strength of our proprietary rights, on the goodwill associated with our trademarks, trade names and service marks, and on our ability to use United States and foreign laws to protect them. Our intellectual property includes, among other things, our original content, our editorial features, logos, brands, domain names, the technology that we use to deliver our services, the various databases of information that we maintain and make available by license, and the appearances of our websites. We claim common law protection on certain names and marks that we have used in connection with our business activities. Although we have applied for and obtained registration of some of our marks in the United States and other countries where we do business, we have not been able to obtain registration of all of our key marks in certain non-U.S. jurisdictions due to prior registration or use by third parties employing similar marks. In addition to United States and foreign laws and registration processes, we rely on confidentiality agreements with our employees and third parties and other protective contractual provisions to safeguard our intellectual property.

Policing our intellectual property rights and identifying infringers worldwide is a difficult task, and even if we are able to identify infringers, we may not be able to stop them from infringing our intellectual property. We cannot be certain that third-party licensees of our content will adequately protect our proprietary rights. Intellectual property laws and our agreements may not be sufficient to prevent others from copying or otherwise obtaining and using our content or technologies. In addition, others may develop non-infringing technologies that are similar or superior to ours. In seeking to protect our marks, copyrights, domain names and other proprietary rights, we could face costly litigation and the diversion of our management's attention and resources.

Furthermore, the relationship between regulations governing domain names and laws protecting trademarks and similar proprietary rights is still evolving. Therefore, we might be unable to prevent third parties from acquiring domain names that infringe or otherwise decrease the value of our trademarks and other proprietary rights. Any impairment in the value of these important assets could cause our stock price to decline.

We could be subject to claims from third parties based on the content on our websites created by us and third parties. These claims could result in costly litigation, the payment of damages or the need to revise the way we conduct our business.

We could be subject to infringement claims from third parties, which may or may not have merit. Due to the nature of content published on our online network, including content placed on our online network by third parties, and as a creator and distributor of original content and research, we face potential liability based on a variety of theories, including defamation, negligence, copyright or trademark infringement, or other legal theories based on the nature, creation or distribution of this information. Such claims may also include, among others, claims that by providing hypertext links to websites operated by third parties, we are liable for wrongful actions by those third parties through these websites. Similar claims have been brought, and sometimes successfully asserted, against online services. It is also possible that our users could make claims against us for losses incurred in reliance on information provided on our networks. In addition, we could be exposed to liability in connection with material posted to our Internet sites by third parties. For example, many of our sites offer users an opportunity to post comments and opinions that are not moderated. Some of this user-generated content may infringe on third-party intellectual property rights or privacy rights or may otherwise be subject to challenge under copyright laws. Such claims, whether brought in the United States or abroad, could divert management time and attention away from our business and result in significant cost to investigate and defend, regardless of the merit of these claims. In addition, if we become subject to these types of claims and are not successful in our defense, we may be forced to pay substantial damages. These claims could also

result in the need to develop alternative trademarks, content or technology or to enter into costly royalty or licensing agreements. Our insurance may not adequately protect us against these claims. The filing of these claims may also damage our reputation as a high quality provider of unbiased, timely analysis and result in client cancellations or overall decreased demand for our services. We may not have, in all cases, conducted formal evaluations of our content, technology and services to determine whether they expose us to any liability of the sort described above. As a result, we cannot be certain that our technology, offerings, services or online content do not or will not infringe upon the intellectual property or other rights of third parties. If we were found to have infringed on a third party's intellectual property rights or otherwise found liable for damages as a result of such claims, the value of our brands and our business reputation could be impaired, and our business could suffer.

Table of Contents

Changes in laws and standards relating to communication, data collection and use, and the privacy of Internet users and other data could impair our efforts to maintain and grow our audience and thereby decrease our advertising revenue.

We use e-mail as a significant means of communicating with our users. The laws and regulations governing the use of e-mail for marketing purposes continues to evolve, and the growth and development of the market for commerce over the Internet may lead to the adoption of additional legislation and/or changes to existing laws. If new laws or regulations are adopted, or existing laws and regulations are interpreted and/or amended or modified to impose additional restrictions on our ability to send e-mail to our users or potential users, we may not be able to communicate with them in a cost-effective manner. In addition to legal restrictions on the use of e-mail, Internet service providers and others typically attempt to block the transmission of unsolicited e-mail, commonly known as spam. If an Internet service provider or software program identifies e-mail from us as spam, we could be placed on a restricted list that would block our e-mail to users or potential users who maintain e-mail accounts with these Internet service providers or who use these software programs. If we are unable to communicate by e-mail with our users and potential users as a result of legislation, blockage or otherwise, our business, operating results and financial condition could be harmed.

We collect information from our users who register on our websites or for services, respond to surveys or, in some cases, view our content. Subject to each user's permission (or right to decline, which we refer to as an "opt-out", a practice that may differ across our various websites, depending on the applicable needs and requirements of different countries' laws), we may use this information to inform our users of services that they have indicated may be of interest to them. We may also share this information with our advertising clients for users who have elected to receive additional promotional materials and have expressly or implicitly granted us permission to share their information with third parties. We also collect information on our users based on their activity on our sites. The U.S. federal government and certain states have adopted or proposed limitations on the collection, distribution and use of personal information of Internet users. Additionally, certain foreign jurisdictions, including the European Union, France, the United Kingdom and Canada, have adopted legislation (including directives or regulations) that may increase the requirements for collecting, or limit our collection and use of, information from Internet users in these jurisdictions. In addition, growing public concern about privacy, data security and the collection, distribution and use of personal information has led to self-regulation of these practices by the Internet advertising and direct marketing industry, and to increased federal and state regulation.

In addition, in May 2014, the Obama administration released a report that advocates a framework to address online consumer privacy. Among other things, the report renews calls for privacy legislation based on a Consumer Privacy Bill of Rights. The proposed Consumer Privacy Bill of Rights would notably allow consumers the right to exercise control over the collection and use of personal data, including the ability to access and correct personal data, for such personal data to be collected and used in accordance with easily understandable privacy and security policies and expect the secure and responsible handling of personal data. The Obama administration has asked the United States Department of Commerce to work with industry, privacy advocates and other stakeholders to draft legislative text to implement the principles outlined in the White House report. Because many of the proposed laws or regulations are in their early stages, we cannot yet determine the impact these regulations may have on our business over time. Although, to date, our efforts to comply with applicable federal and state laws and regulations have not hurt our business, additional, more burdensome laws or regulations, including more restrictive consumer privacy and data security laws, could be enacted or applied to us or our customers. Such laws or regulations could impair our ability to collect user information that helps us to provide more targeted advertising to our users and detailed lead data to our advertising clients, thereby impairing our ability to maintain and grow our audience and maximize advertising revenue from our clients. Additionally, the FTC and many state attorneys general are applying federal and state consumer protection laws to require that the online collection, use and dissemination of data, and the presentation of website content, comply with certain standards for notice, choice, security and access. Courts may also adopt these developing

standards. In many cases, the specific limitations imposed by these standards are subject to interpretation by courts and other governmental authorities. A few states have also introduced legislation that, if enacted, would restrict or prohibit behavioral advertising within the state. In the absence of a federal law pre-empting their enforcement, such state legislation would likely have the practical effect of regulating behavioral advertising nationwide because of the difficulties behind implementing state-specific policies or identifying the location of a particular user. In the event of additional legislation in this area, our ability to effectively target our users may be limited. We believe that we are in compliance with applicable consumer protection laws, but a determination by a state or federal agency or court that any of our practices do not meet these laws and regulations could create liability to us, result in adverse publicity and affect negatively our businesses. New interpretations of these standards could also require us to incur additional costs and restrict our business operations.

As we deploy new products, we will need to update our privacy policy to describe any relevant changes to our practices. Failure to do so could give rise to federal or state enforcement actions or lawsuits that could materially affect our business. In addition, several foreign governmental bodies, including the European Union, the United Kingdom, and Canada, have regulations dealing with the collection and use of personal information obtained from their citizens. Regulations in these jurisdictions have

Table of Contents

focused on the collection, use, disclosure and security of information that may be used to identify or that actually identifies an individual, such as an e-mail address or a name. Further, within the European Union, certain member state data protection authorities regard IP addresses as personal information, and legislation in the European Union requires informed consent for the placement of a cookie on a user device. We believe that we are in material compliance with such regulations as applicable to us; however, such regulations and laws may be modified and new laws may be enacted in the future. Further, data protection authorities may interpret existing laws in new ways. Any such developments (or developments stemming from enactment or modification of other laws) or the failure to anticipate accurately the application or interpretation of these laws could create liability to us, result in adverse publicity and negatively affect our businesses.

United States and European lawmakers and regulators have recently expressed concern over the use of third party cookies or web beacons for the purpose of online behavioral advertising, and efforts to address these uses may result in broader requirements that would apply to research activities, including understanding our users' Internet usage. Such actions may have a chilling effect on businesses that collect or use online usage information generally or substantially increase the cost of maintaining a business that collects or uses online usage information, increase regulatory scrutiny and increase the potential of class action lawsuits. In response to marketplace concerns about the usage of third party cookies and web beacons to track user behaviors, the major browser applications have enabled features that allow the user to limit the collection of certain data. These developments could impair our ability to collect user information that helps us provide more targeted advertising to our users. In addition, several browser applications, including Microsoft Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome and Apple Safari, contain tracking protection features and options that allow users to opt out of ad-tracking cookies and in certain cases block behavioral tracking from specified websites. In the event users implement these tracking features and options, they have the potential to affect our business negatively.

Increased exposure from loss of personal information could impose significant additional costs on us.

Many states and foreign jurisdictions in which we operate have enacted regulations requiring us to notify customers in the event that certain customer information is accessed, or believed to have been accessed, without authorization. Certain regulations also require proscriptive policies to protect against such unauthorized access. Such notifications can result in private causes of action being filed against us. Additionally, increasing regulatory demands are requiring us to provide protection of personal information to prevent identity theft and the disclosure of sensitive information. Should we experience a loss of protected data, efforts to regain compliance and address penalties imposed by such regulatory regimes could increase our costs.

Our business, which is dependent on centrally located communications and computer hardware systems, is vulnerable to natural disasters, telecommunication and systems failures, terrorism and other problems, as well as disruption due to maintenance or high volume, all of which could reduce traffic on our networks or websites and result in decreased capacity for advertising space.

Our operations are dependent on our communications systems and computer hardware, all of which are located in data centers operated by third parties. These systems could be damaged by natural disasters, power loss, telecommunication failures, viruses, hacking and similar events outside of our control. Our insurance policies have limited coverage levels for loss or damages in these events and may not adequately compensate us for any losses that may occur. In addition, terrorist acts or acts of war may cause harm to our employees or damage our facilities, our clients, our customers and vendors, or cause us to postpone or cancel, or result in dramatically reduced attendance at, our events, which could adversely impact our revenues, costs and expenses and financial position. We are predominantly uninsured for losses and interruptions to our systems or cancellations of events caused by terrorist acts and acts of war.

Our ability to attract and maintain relationships with users, advertisers and strategic partners depends on the satisfactory performance, reliability and availability of our Internet infrastructure. Our Internet advertising revenues relate directly to the number of advertisements and other marketing opportunities delivered to our users. System interruptions or delays that result in the unavailability of Internet sites or slower response times for users would reduce the number of advertising impressions and leads delivered. This could reduce our revenues as the attractiveness of our sites to users and advertisers decreases. Our insurance policies provide only limited coverage for service interruptions and may not adequately compensate us for any losses that may occur due to any failures or interruptions in our systems. Further, we do not have multiple site capacity for all of our services in the event of any such occurrence.

In addition, our networks and websites must accommodate a high volume of traffic and deliver frequently updated information. They have experienced, and may experience in the future, slower response times due to higher than expected traffic, or decreased traffic, for a variety of reasons. There have been instances where our online networks as a whole, or our websites individually, have been inaccessible. Also, slower response times, which have occurred more frequently, can result from general

Table of Contents

Internet problems, routing and equipment problems involving third-party Internet access providers, problems with third-party advertising servers, increased traffic to our servers, viruses and other security breaches, many of which problems are out of our control. In addition, our users depend on Internet service providers and online service providers for access to our online networks or websites. Those providers have experienced outages and delays in the past, and may experience outages or delays in the future. Moreover, our Internet infrastructure might not be able to support continued growth of our online networks or websites. Any of these problems could result in less traffic to our networks or websites or harm the perception of our networks or websites as reliable sources of information. Less traffic on our networks and websites or periodic interruptions in service could have the effect of reducing demand for advertising on our networks or websites, thereby reducing our advertising revenues.

Our networks may be vulnerable to unauthorized persons accessing our systems, viruses and other disruptions, which could result in the theft of our proprietary information and/or disrupt our Internet operations making our websites less attractive and reliable for our users and advertisers.

We currently retain confidential information relating to our users in secure database servers. Although we observe security measures throughout our operations, we may not be able to prevent individuals from gaining unauthorized access to these database servers, which could cause intentional malfunctions or loss or corruption of data, software, hardware or other computer equipment. Hackers, if successful, could misappropriate proprietary information or cause disruptions in our service. We may be required to expend capital and other resources to protect our websites against hackers. Our online networks could also be affected by computer viruses or other similar disruptive problems, and we could inadvertently transmit viruses across our networks to our users or other third parties. Any of these occurrences could harm our business or give rise to a cause of action against us. Providing unimpeded access to our online networks is critical to servicing our customers and providing superior customer service. Our inability to provide continuous access to our online networks could cause some of our customers to discontinue purchasing advertising programs and services and/or prevent or deter our users from accessing our networks. Our activities and the activities of third-party contractors involve the storage and transmission of proprietary and personal information. Accordingly, security breaches could expose us to a risk of loss or litigation and possible liability. We cannot assure that contractual provisions attempting to limit our liability in these areas will be successful or enforceable, or that other parties will accept such contractual provisions as part of our agreements.

Our business depends on continued and unimpeded access to the Internet by us and our users. If government regulations relating to the Internet change, Internet access providers may be able to block, degrade, or charge for access to certain of our products and services, which could lead to additional expenses and the loss of customers and clients.

Our products and services depend on the ability of our users to access the Internet. Currently, this access is provided by companies that have significant market power in the broadband and Internet access marketplace, including incumbent telephone companies, cable companies, mobile communications companies, and government-owned service providers. Some of these providers have taken, or have stated that they may take measures, including legal actions, that could degrade, disrupt, or increase the cost of user access to our advertisements or our third-party publishers' advertisements by restricting or prohibiting the use of infrastructure to support or facilitate our offerings, or by charging increased fees to us or our users to provide our offerings. Recently, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) again adopted net neutrality rules intended, in part, to prevent network operators from discriminating against legal traffic that transverse their networks. It is unclear whether or how these new rules may be subject to challenge or preemption if the U.S. Congress passes new laws regarding net neutrality and the executive branch adopts these laws. In addition, as we expand internationally, government regulations concerning the Internet, in particular net neutrality, may be nascent or non-existent. Within such a regulatory environment, coupled with potentially significant political and economic power of local network operators, we could experience discriminatory or

anti-competitive practices that could impede our growth, cause us to incur additional expense or otherwise negatively affect our business. Such interference could result in a loss of existing customers and clients, and increased costs, and could impair our ability to attract new customers and clients, thereby harming our revenue and growth.

Risks Related to Our Financial Statements and General Corporate Matters

If we do not maintain proper and effective disclosure controls and procedures and internal controls over financial reporting, our ability to produce accurate financial statements could be impaired, which could adversely affect our operating results, our ability to operate our business and investors' views of us.

Ensuring that we have adequate disclosure controls and procedures, including internal financial and accounting controls and procedures, in place to help ensure that we can produce accurate financial statements on a timely basis is a costly and time-consuming effort that needs to be re-evaluated frequently. On an ongoing basis, both we and our independent auditors document and test our

Table of Contents

internal controls and procedures in connection with the requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and, as part of that documentation and testing, identify areas for further attention and improvement. Implementing any appropriate changes to our internal controls may entail substantial costs in order to modify our existing accounting systems, take a significant period of time to complete and distract our officers, directors and employees from the operation of our business. These changes may not, however, be effective in maintaining the adequacy of our internal controls, and any failure to maintain that adequacy, or consequent inability to produce accurate financial statements on a timely basis, could increase our operating costs and could materially impair our ability to operate our business. In addition, investors' perceptions that our internal controls are inadequate or that we are unable to produce accurate financial statements may seriously affect our stock price.

Our ability to raise capital in the future may be limited.

Our business and operations may consume resources faster than we anticipate. In the future, we may need to raise additional funds to expand our sales and marketing and service development efforts or to make acquisitions. Additional financing may not be available on favorable terms, if at all. If adequate funds are not available on acceptable terms, we may be unable to fund the expansion of our sales and marketing and research and development efforts or take advantage of acquisition or other opportunities, which could seriously harm our business and operating results. If we incur debt, the debt holders would have rights senior to common stockholders to make claims on our assets and the terms of any debt could restrict our operations, including our ability to pay dividends on our common stock. Furthermore, if we issue additional equity securities, stockholders will experience dilution, and the new equity securities could have rights senior to those of our common stock. Any debt financing is likely to have financial and other covenants that could have an adverse impact on our business if we do not achieve our projected results. Because our decision to issue securities in any future offering will depend on market conditions and other factors beyond our control, we cannot predict or estimate the amount, timing or nature of our future offerings. Thus, our stockholders bear the risk of our future securities offerings reducing the market price of our common stock and diluting their interest.

The impairment of a significant amount of goodwill and intangible assets on our balance sheet could result in a decrease in earnings and, as a result, our stock price could decline.

We have acquired assets and businesses over time, some of which have resulted in the recording of a significant amount of goodwill and/or intangible assets on our financial statements. We had approximately \$94.0 million of goodwill and \$3.0 million of net intangible assets as of December 31, 2014. The goodwill and/or intangible assets were recorded because the fair value of the net tangible assets acquired was less than the purchase price. We may not realize the full value of the goodwill and/or intangible assets. As such, we evaluate goodwill and other intangible assets with indefinite useful lives for impairment on an annual basis or more frequently if events or circumstances suggest that the asset may be impaired. We did not have any intangible assets with indefinite lives as of December 31, 2014. We evaluate other intangible assets subject to amortization whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of those assets may not be recoverable. If goodwill or other intangible assets are determined to be impaired, we will write off the unrecoverable portion as a charge to our earnings. If we acquire new assets and businesses in the future, as we intend to do, we may record additional goodwill and/or intangible assets. The possible write-off of the goodwill and/or intangible assets could negatively impact our future earnings and, as a result, the market price of our common stock could decline.

The trading value of our common stock may be volatile and decline substantially.

The trading price of our common stock may be volatile and could be subject to wide fluctuations in response to various factors, some of which are beyond our control. In addition to the factors discussed in this Risk Factors section

and elsewhere in this Annual Report, these factors include:

our operating performance and the operating performance of similar companies;

the overall performance of the equity markets;

announcements by us or our competitors of acquisitions, business plans, commercial relationships or new product or service offerings;

threatened or actual litigation;

changes in laws or regulations relating to the provision of Internet content;

any change in our board of directors or management;

publication of research reports about us, our competitors or our industry, or positive or negative recommendations or withdrawal of research coverage by securities analysts;

our sale of common stock or other securities in the future;

Table of Contents

large volumes of sales of our shares of common stock by existing stockholders; and

general political and economic conditions.

In addition, the stock market in general, and historically the market for Internet-related companies in particular, has experienced price and volume fluctuations that have often been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of those companies. Securities class action litigation has often been instituted against companies following periods of volatility in the overall market and in the market price of a company's securities. Such litigation, if instituted against us, could result in substantial costs, divert our management's attention and resources and harm our business, operating results and financial condition.

Our full year and quarterly operating results are subject to fluctuations, and these fluctuations may adversely affect the trading price of our common stock.

We have experienced fluctuations in our full year and quarterly revenues and operating results. Our revenues and operating results may fluctuate from quarter to quarter due to a number of factors described in this Risk Factors section, many of which are outside of our control. Specifically, our results could be impacted quarter by quarter by changes in the spending priorities and advertising budget cycles of customers; the addition or loss of customers; the addition of new sites and services by us or our competitors; and seasonal fluctuations in advertising spending, based on product launch schedules, annual budget approval processes for our customers and the historical decrease in advertising and events activity in the summer months. Due to the foregoing as well as other risks described in this Risk Factors section, our results of operations in one or more quarters may fall below the expectations of investors and/or securities analysts. In such an event, the trading price of our common stock is likely to decline.

Provisions of our certificate of incorporation, bylaws and Delaware law could deter takeover attempts.

Various provisions in our certificate of incorporation and bylaws could delay, prevent or make more difficult a merger, tender offer, proxy contest or change of control. Our stockholders might view any transaction of this type as being in their best interest since the transaction could result in a higher stock price than the then-current market price for our common stock. Among other things, our certificate of incorporation and bylaws:

authorize our board of directors to issue preferred stock with the terms of each series to be fixed by our board of directors, which could be used to institute a "poison pill" that would work to dilute the share ownership of a potential hostile acquirer, effectively preventing acquisitions that have not been approved by our board;

divide our board of directors into three classes so that only approximately one-third of the total number of directors is elected each year;

permit directors to be removed only for cause;

prohibit action by written consent of our stockholders; and

specify advance notice requirements for stockholder proposals and director nominations. In addition, with some exceptions, the Delaware General Corporation Law restricts or delays mergers and other business combinations between us and any stockholder that acquires 15% or more of our voting stock.

Future sales of shares of our common stock by existing stockholders could depress the market price of our common stock.

If our existing stockholders sell, or indicate an intent to sell, substantial amounts of our common stock in the public market, the trading price of our common stock could decline significantly. A large portion of our outstanding shares of common stock is held by our officers, directors and significant stockholders. Our largest stockholder is a complex of venture capital funds, which are structured to have a finite life. As these venture capital funds approach or pass the respective terms of the fund, the decision to sell or hold our stock may be based not only on the underlying investment merits of our stock but also on the requirements of their internal fund structure. Our directors, executive officers and significant stockholders beneficially own approximately 11.5 million shares of our common stock, which represents 36% of our outstanding shares as of December 31, 2014. If these additional shares are sold, or if it is perceived that they will be sold in the public market, the trading price of our common stock could decline substantially.

A limited number of stockholders have the ability to influence the outcome of director elections and other matters requiring stockholder approval.

Our directors, executive officers and significant stockholders beneficially own approximately 36% of our outstanding common stock. These stockholders, if they act together, could exert substantial influence over matters requiring approval by our

Table of Contents

stockholders, including the election of directors, the amendment of our certificate of incorporation and bylaws and the approval of mergers or other business combination transactions. This concentration of ownership may discourage, delay or prevent a change in control of our company, which could deprive our stockholders of an opportunity to receive a premium for their stock as part of a sale of our company and might reduce our stock price. These actions may be taken even if they are opposed by other stockholders.

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments

None.

Item 2. Properties

In August 2009, we entered into an agreement to lease approximately 87,875 square feet of office space in Newton, Massachusetts. The lease commenced in February 2010 and has a term of 10 years. In November 2010, we signed an amendment to the Newton lease for approximately 8,400 square feet of additional space beginning in late March 2011. We also have leases for several sales offices located in other parts of the United States and for our international subsidiaries. We do not own any real property. We believe that our leased facilities are, in general, in good operating condition and adequate for our current operations and that additional leased space can be obtained if needed.

Item 3. Legal Proceedings

We are not currently a party to any material legal proceedings and we are not aware of any pending or threatened litigation against us that could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results or financial condition. On January 6, 2012, the Company filed Petitions under Formal Procedure with the Massachusetts Appellate Tax Board in connection with the classification of the Company's wholly-owned subsidiary, TechTarget Securities Corporation, and assessments made by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, as described in Note 9 in the accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements. A trial took place on April 29, 2014; no decision has been rendered as of the date of this report.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

Not applicable.

Table of Contents**PART II****Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities**

Our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Global Market under the trading symbol TTGT. The following table sets forth the high and low sales prices of our common stock, as reported by the Nasdaq Global Market, for each quarterly period in 2014 and 2013:

	High	Low
2014		
Quarter ended March 31, 2014	\$ 7.41	\$ 6.35
Quarter ended June 30, 2014	\$ 9.00	\$ 6.14
Quarter ended September 30, 2014	\$ 9.11	\$ 6.79
Quarter ended December 31, 2014	\$ 11.53	\$ 8.50
2013		
Quarter ended March 31, 2013	\$ 5.71	\$ 4.19
Quarter ended June 30, 2013	\$ 4.90	\$ 4.00
Quarter ended September 30, 2013	\$ 5.46	\$ 4.31
Quarter ended December 31, 2013	\$ 7.10	\$ 4.82

The closing sale price of our common stock, as reported by the Nasdaq Global Market, was \$12.14 on February 27, 2015.

 Holders

As of February 27, 2015 there were approximately 110 stockholders of record of our common stock based on the records of our transfer agent.

 Dividends

We did not declare or pay any cash dividends on our common stock during the two most recent fiscal years. We currently intend to retain earnings, if any, to fund the development and growth of our business and do not anticipate paying cash dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future. Our payment of any future dividends will be at the sole discretion of our board of directors after taking into account various factors, including our financial condition, operating results, cash needs and growth plans.

 Equity Compensation Plan Information

Information relating to compensation plans under which our equity securities are authorized for issuance is set forth under Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters in Item 12 below.

 Stock Performance Graph

Edgar Filing: TechTarget Inc - Form 10-K

The following graph compares the cumulative total return to stockholders of our common stock for the period from December 31, 2009 to December 31, 2014, to the cumulative total return of the Russell 2000 Index and the S&P 500 Media Industry Index for the same period. This graph assumes the investment of \$100.00 on December 31, 2009 in our common stock, the Russell 2000 Index and the S&P 500 Media Industry Index and assumes any dividends are reinvested.

Table of Contents**COMPARATIVE STOCK PERFORMANCE****Among TechTarget Inc.,****the Russell 2000 Index and****S&P 500 Media Industry Index**

* \$100 invested on 12/31/09 in stock or index, including reinvestment of dividends.
Fiscal year ending December 31.

Copyright© 2015 Russell Investment Group. All rights reserved.

	12/09	12/10	12/11	12/12	12/13	12/14
TechTarget Inc.	100.00	140.85	103.73	98.58	121.85	201.95
Russell 2000	100.00	126.86	121.56	141.43	196.34	205.95
S&P 500 Media Industry	100.00	124.31	133.54	184.03	277.85	315.23

The information included under the heading **Stock Performance Graph** in Item 5 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K is furnished and not filed and shall not be deemed to be soliciting material or subject to Regulation 14A, shall not be deemed filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Act of 1934, as amended, or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act of 1934, as amended.

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

The following table provides information about purchases by the Company during the quarter ended December 31, 2014 of equity securities that are registered by the Company pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act.

Table of Contents**Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities**

Period		Total Number of Shares Purchased (1)	Average Price Paid Per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs(1)	Approximate Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs
October 1, 2014	October 31, 2014	27,251	\$ 8.89	27,251*	\$ 17,114,205
November 1, 2014	November 30, 2014	212,451	\$ 10.60	212,451*	\$ 14,861,191
December 1, 2014	December 31, 2014	1,000,000	\$ 9.80	1,000,000	\$ 5,064,191
Total(2)		1,239,702	\$ 9.92	1,239,702	\$ 5,064,191

(1) On August 5, 2014, the Board of Directors announced the approval of a Stock Repurchase Program (the 2014 Program), which authorized the Company to purchase up to \$20 million of shares of its common stock from time to time on the open market or in privately negotiated transactions.

(2) All shares were repurchased under the 2014 Program. Please refer to Note 11 Stockholders Equity in the accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for further information related to our Common Stock Repurchase Program.

* Price excludes commission of approximately \$0.02 per share.

Item 6. Selected Financial Data

The information set forth below is not necessarily indicative of results of future operations, and should be read in conjunction with Item 7, Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and the consolidated financial statements and related notes thereto included in Item 8 of this Form 10-K to fully understand factors that may affect the comparability of the information presented below.

	Years Ended December 31,				
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
(in thousands, except per share data)					
Consolidated Results of Operations Data:					
Revenues:					
Online	\$ 97,607	\$ 79,709	\$ 88,192	\$ 92,303	\$ 82,330
Events	8,596	8,787	11,799	13,195	12,679
Total revenues	106,203	88,496	99,991	105,498	95,009

Edgar Filing: TechTarget Inc - Form 10-K

Cost of revenues:					
Online(1)	24,629	23,362	23,513	22,373	20,402
Events(1)	3,418	3,771	4,301	4,765	4,313
Total cost of revenues	28,047	27,133	27,814	27,138	24,715
Gross profit	78,156	61,363	72,177	78,360	70,294
Operating expenses:					
Selling and marketing(1)	42,836	36,920	36,718	39,586	37,291
Product development(1)	7,161	6,715	7,521	7,688	8,661
General and administrative(1)(4)	14,878	13,916	13,112	13,536	15,468
Depreciation	4,060	3,823	3,279	2,759	2,389
Amortization of intangible assets	1,762	2,223	3,351	3,976	4,523
Restructuring charge				384	
Total operating expenses	70,697	63,597	63,981	67,929	68,332
Operating income (loss)	7,459	(2,234)	8,196	10,431	1,962
Interest and other (expense) income, net(4)	(333)	(260)	13	(87)	114
Income (loss) before provision for (benefit from) income taxes	7,126	(2,494)	8,209	10,344	2,076
Provision for (benefit from) income taxes	3,045	(657)	4,185	5,655	3,258
Net income (loss)	\$ 4,081	\$ (1,837)	\$ 4,024	\$ 4,689	\$ (1,182)
Net income (loss) per common share(2):					
Basic	\$ 0.12	\$ (0.05)	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.12	\$ (0.03)
Diluted	\$ 0.12	\$ (0.05)	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.12	\$ (0.03)
Weighted average common shares outstanding:					
Basic	33,010	37,886	40,211	38,532	42,771
Diluted	34,641	37,886	40,910	40,567	42,771
Other Data:					
Adjusted EBITDA (unaudited)(3)	\$ 21,459	\$ 9,598	\$ 20,093	\$ 25,417	\$ 19,875

Table of Contents

	As of December 31,				
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
	(in thousands)				
Consolidated Balance Sheet Data:					
Cash, cash equivalents and investments	\$ 38,183	\$ 33,772	\$ 76,340	\$ 63,221	\$ 50,134
Total assets	\$ 177,484	\$ 176,982	\$ 220,192	\$ 209,187	\$ 193,758
Total liabilities	\$ 21,638	\$ 19,920	\$ 20,878	\$ 19,512	\$ 19,898
Treasury stock	\$ (98,851)	\$ (83,862)	\$ (35,810)	\$ (35,343)	\$ (35,343)
Total stockholders' equity	\$ 155,846	\$ 157,062	\$ 199,314	\$ 189,675	\$ 173,860

(1) Amounts include stock-based compensation expense as follows:

	Years Ended December 31,				
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
	(in thousands)				
Cost of online revenue	\$ 116	\$ 173	\$ 202	\$ 273	\$ 173
Cost of events revenue	8	18	18	91	87
Selling and marketing	3,287	2,751	2,888	4,713	6,380
Product development	129	212	265	443	520
General and administrative	3,792	2,431	1,894	1,949	3,841
Total	\$ 7,332	\$ 5,585	\$ 5,267	\$ 7,469	\$ 11,001

(2) Basic and diluted net income (loss) per common share is computed by dividing the net income (loss) applicable to common stockholders by the basic and diluted weighted-average number of common shares outstanding for the fiscal period. See Note 2 of our Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

(3) The following table reconciles net income (loss) to Adjusted EBITDA for the periods presented and is unaudited:

	Years Ended December 31,				
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
	(in thousands)				
Net income (loss)	\$ 4,081	\$ (1,837)	\$ 4,024	\$ 4,689	\$ (1,182)
Interest and other expense (income), net	333	260	(13)	87	(114)
Provision for (benefit from) income taxes	3,045	(657)	4,185	5,655	3,258
Depreciation	4,060	3,823	3,279	2,759	2,389
Amortization of intangible assets	1,762	2,223	3,351	3,976	4,523
Amortization of purchase price adjustment for earnouts	308	201		398	
EBITDA	13,589	4,013	14,826	17,564	8,874
Stock-based compensation	7,332	5,585	5,267	7,469	11,001
Secondary offering costs	538				
Restructuring charge				384	

Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 21,459	\$ 9,598	\$ 20,093	\$ 25,417	\$ 19,875
-----------------	-----------	----------	-----------	-----------	-----------

Adjusted EBITDA is a non-GAAP financial measure used by management when reviewing our performance. EBITDA represents net income (loss) before interest and other expense (income) net, provision for (benefit from) income taxes, depreciation and amortization. Adjusted EBITDA represents EBITDA as further adjusted to exclude stock-based compensation, secondary offering costs and restructuring charges. We present Adjusted EBITDA as a supplemental performance measure because we believe it facilitates operating performance comparisons from period to period and company to company by backing out potential differences caused by variations in capital structures (affecting interest expense), tax positions (such as the impact on periods or companies of changes in effective tax rates or net operating losses), the age and book depreciation of fixed assets (affecting relative depreciation expense), acquisition-related charges (such as amortization of intangible assets and earnouts) and the impact of non-cash stock-based compensation expense costs. Because Adjusted EBITDA facilitates internal comparisons of operating performance on a more consistent basis, we also use Adjusted EBITDA in measuring our performance relative to that of our competitors. We also use Adjusted EBITDA in connection with our compensation of our executive officers and senior management. Adjusted EBITDA is not a measurement of our financial performance under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and should not be considered as an alternative to net income (loss), operating income (loss) or any other performance measures derived in accordance with GAAP

Table of Contents

or as an alternative to cash flow from operating activities as a measure of our profitability or liquidity. We understand that although Adjusted EBITDA is frequently used by securities analysts, lenders and others in their evaluation of companies, Adjusted EBITDA has limitations as an analytical tool, and you should not consider it in isolation, or as a substitute for analysis of our results as reported under GAAP. Some of these limitations are:

Adjusted EBITDA does not reflect our cash expenditures, or future requirements for capital expenditures or contractual commitments;

Adjusted EBITDA does not reflect changes in, or cash requirements for, our working capital needs;

Adjusted EBITDA does not reflect the interest expense, or the cash requirements necessary to service interest or principal payments, on our debts;

Although depreciation and amortization are non-cash charges, the assets being depreciated and amortized will often have to be replaced in the future, and Adjusted EBITDA does not reflect any cash requirements for such replacements; and

Other companies in our industry may calculate Adjusted EBITDA differently than we do, limiting its usefulness as a comparative measure.

(4) Beginning in the third quarter of 2014, we changed the presentation of transactional gains and losses arising from the impact of currency exchange rate fluctuations on transactions in foreign currency that is different from the local functional currency in order to better reflect the non-operating nature of these gains and losses, and are now including them in Other Income (Expense) on the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss) as well as our Adjusted EBITDA reconciliation. Previously, these gains and losses were included in our operating expenses as General and Administrative expense. Amounts in the prior periods' financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the current presentation. In the twelve months ended December 31, 2013, this resulted in an increase to Other Expense and a decrease in General and Administrative expense equal to \$0.2 million and for the twelve months ended December 31, 2012, this resulted in a decrease to Other Income and a decrease in General and Administrative expense amounting to \$0.1 million. In the twelve months ended December 31, 2011, this resulted in an increase to Other Expense and a decrease in General and Administrative expense equal to \$0.1 million and for the twelve months ended December 31, 2010, this resulted in a decrease to Other Income and a decrease in General and Administrative expense amounting to \$0.1 million.

Table of Contents

Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes included elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. This discussion and analysis contains forward-looking statements that involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of various factors, including those discussed below and elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, particularly under the heading "Risk Factors."

Overview

Background

We are a leading provider of specialized online content and brand advertising that brings together buyers and sellers of corporate information technology (IT) products. We sell customized marketing programs that enable IT vendors to reach corporate IT decision makers who are actively researching specific purchases. In addition we offer a number of data analytics solutions that help our customers more efficiently target their sales efforts.

IT professionals have become increasingly specialized, and rely on our network of over 150 websites, each of which focuses on a specific IT sector such as storage, security or networking, for key decision support information tailored to their specific areas of responsibility. We work with our advertising customers to develop customized marketing programs, often providing them with multiple offerings in order to target their desired audience of IT professionals more effectively. Our service offerings address the lead generation, project opportunity information, and branding objectives of our advertising customers. In the year ended December 31, 2014, lead generation and branding remained our primary sources of revenue, while project opportunity information, driven by growth in our IT Deal Alert products, contributed approximately 17% of online revenue as compared with approximately 5% for the same period in 2013.

We enable IT professionals to navigate the complex and rapidly-changing IT landscape where purchasing decisions can have significant financial and operational consequences. Our content strategy includes three primary sources which IT professionals use to assist them in their pre-purchase research: independent content provided by our professionals, vendor-generated content provided by our customers and user-generated, or peer-to-peer, content. In addition to utilizing our independent content, registered members are able to conduct their pre-purchase research by accessing extensive vendor content across our network of websites. Our network of websites also allows users to seamlessly interact and contribute content, which is highly valued by IT professionals during their research process.

We have approximately 15.3 million registered members as of December 31, 2014. The targeted nature of our user base enables IT vendors to reach a specialized audience efficiently because our content is highly segmented and aligned with the IT vendors' specific products. Since our founding in 1999, we have developed a broad customer base. During 2014, we delivered advertising campaigns for approximately 1,300 customers. No customer represented 10% or more of total revenue during 2014.

Executive Summary

Our revenue for the year ended December 31, 2014 grew approximately 20%, to \$106.2 million, when compared with the same period in 2013. This growth was primarily driven by two factors: continued growth of international revenue from our online products and further adoption of our new IT Deal Alert offering. Both of these factors remain key areas of focus for our management team, and we believe they may contribute to our continued revenue growth. IT Deal Alert is a suite of services that leverages our proprietary audience activity data to enable us to identify purchase

intent among our audience of IT professionals. At the same time, our international business is benefitting from the continued shift in adoption of online tools from traditional print sources by IT professionals in overseas markets.

During 2014, we made further progress on our strategy to grow our business and increase the reach of our offerings by continuing to execute on our strategic plans for the roll-out of IT Deal Alert and the continued expansion of our direct international capabilities.

We ended 2014 with Adjusted EBITDA of \$21.5 million, which is up 124% from 2013. This growth is primarily driven by the increased revenue as described above. Adjusted EBITDA, a non-GAAP financial measure, is described further in Item 6, Selected Financial Data.

Table of Contents

Sources of Revenues

We sell advertising programs to IT vendors targeting a specific audience within a particular IT sector or sub-sector. We maintain multiple points of contact with our customers to provide support throughout their organizations and their customers' IT sales cycles. As a result, our customers often run multiple advertising programs with us in order to target their desired audience of IT professionals more effectively. There are multiple factors that can impact our customers' advertising objectives and spending with us, including but not limited to, IT product launches, increases or decreases to their advertising budgets, the timing of key industry marketing events, responses to competitor activities and efforts to address specific marketing objectives such as creating brand awareness or generating sales leads. Our services are generally delivered under short-term contracts that run for the length of a given advertising program, typically less than six months. In the year ended December 31, 2014, lead generation and branding remained our primary sources of revenue, while project opportunity information, driven by growth in our IT Deal Alert products, contributed approximately 16% of total revenue as compared with approximately 4% for the same period in 2013.

The majority of our revenue is derived from the delivery of our online offerings. Online revenue represented 92%, 90% and 88% of total revenues for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

We use both online and event offerings to provide IT vendors with numerous touch points to reach key IT decision makers and to provide IT professionals with highly specialized content across multiple forms of media. We are experienced in assisting advertisers to develop custom advertising programs that maximize branding and ROI. The following is a description of the services we offer:

Online Offerings

Core Online. Our network of websites forms the core of our content platform. Our websites provide IT professionals with comprehensive decision support information tailored to their specific areas of responsibility and purchasing decisions. Through our websites, we offer a variety of online media offerings to connect IT vendors to IT professionals.

Lead Generation. Our lead generation offerings allow IT vendors to maximize ROI by capturing qualified sales leads from the distribution and promotion of content to our audience of IT professionals. All of our lead generation campaigns offer the Activity Intelligence™ Dashboard, a technology platform that gives our customers' marketers and sales representatives a real-time view of their prospects, which includes insights on the research activities of technology buying teams, including at an account level. Lead generation offerings may also include an additional service, TechTarget Re-Engage (formerly called Nurture & Qualify), which helps both technology marketers and their sales teams to identify highly active prospects, detect emerging projects, retarget interested buying teams, and accelerate engagement with specific accounts.

Our lead generation offerings may also include the syndication of the following:

White Papers. White papers are technical documents created by IT vendors to describe business or technical problems which are addressed by the vendors' products or services. As part of a lead generation campaign, we post white papers on our relevant websites and our users receive targeted promotions about these content assets. Prior to viewing white papers, our registered members and visitors supply their corporate contact information and agree to receive further information from the vendor. The corporate contact and other qualification information for these leads are supplied

to the vendor in real time through our proprietary lead management software.

Webcasts, Podcasts, Videocasts and Virtual Trade Shows. Webcasts, podcasts, videocasts, virtual trade shows and similar content bring informational sessions directly to attendees' desktops and mobile devices. As is the case with white papers, our users supply their corporate contact and qualification information to the webcast, podcast, videocast or virtual trade show sponsor when they view or download the content.

Sponsorship includes access to the registrant information and visibility before, during and after the event.

Branding. Our branding offerings provide IT vendors exposure to targeted audiences of IT professionals actively researching information related to their products and services and include display advertising (including banners) and custom offerings. Display advertising can be purchased on specific websites within our network and against specific audience or technology segments. Through an offering called Spoke , we can also provide our advertisers with brand exposure to our audience outside of our network of owned and operated websites, with the same types of targeting criteria available within our network. These offerings give IT vendors the ability to increase their brand awareness to highly specialized IT sectors.

Table of Contents

Custom Content Creation. In support of our advertisers' lead generation programs, we will sometimes create white papers, case studies, webcasts, videos or even entire microsites to our customers' specifications through our Custom Media team. These customized content assets are then promoted to our audience in the context of the advertisers' lead generation programs. Our custom offerings allow customers to have content or entire microsites created that focus on topics related to their marketing objectives and include promotion of these vehicles to our users, which includes IT professionals and buyers of IT products.

Content Sponsorships. IT vendors, or groups of vendors, pay us to sponsor independent editorially created content vehicles on specific technology topics where the registrant information is then provided to all participating sponsors. In some cases, these vehicles are supported by multiple sponsors in a single segment, with the registrant information provided to all participating sponsors. Because these offerings are editorially driven, advertisers get the benefit of association with independently created content as well as access to qualified sales leads that are researching the topic.

List Rentals. We also offer IT vendors the ability to message registered members on topics related to their interests by renting our e-mail and postal lists of registered members, which is organized using specific criteria such as company size, geography or job title.

Third Party Revenue Sharing Arrangements. We have revenue sharing arrangements with certain third parties to allow for the licensing of our online content, for the renting of our database of opted-in e-mail subscribers and to allow advertising from customers of certain third parties to be made available to our website visitors. In each of these arrangements we are paid a share of the resulting revenue.

IT Deal Alert. IT Deal Alert is a suite of services for advertisers that leverages the detailed purchase intent data that we collect about end-user IT organizations. Through proprietary scoring methodologies, we use this data to help advertisers identify and prioritize accounts whose content consumption around specific IT topics indicates that they are in-market for a particular product or service. We also use the data directly to identify and further profile accounts' upcoming purchase plans.

IT Deal Alert: Qualified Sales Opportunities is a product that profiles specific in-progress purchase projects, including information on scope and purchase considerations.

IT Deal Alert: Account Watch (rebranded as IT Deal Alert: Priority Engine in 2015) is a subscription service powered by our Activity Intelligence platform which integrates with salesforce.com. The service delivers information to allow marketers and sales personnel to identify accounts actively researching new technology purchases, and to reach active prospects within those organizations that are relevant to the purchase. We sell this service in approximately 80 technology-specific segments.

Events

Events revenue represented 8%, 10% and 12% of total revenues for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. Most of our media groups operate revenue-generating events. The majority of our events are free to IT professionals and are sponsored by IT vendors. Attendees are pre-screened based on event-specific criteria such as sector-specific budget size, company size, or job title. We offer three types of events: multi-day conferences, single-day seminars and custom events. Multi-day conferences provide independent content provided by our professionals to our attendees and allow vendors to purchase exhibit space and other sponsorship offerings that enable interaction with the attendees. We also hold single-day seminars on various topics in major cities. These seminars

provide independent content provided by our professionals on key sub-topics in the sectors we serve, are free to qualified attendees, and offer multiple vendors the ability to interact with specific, targeted audiences actively focused on buying decisions. Our custom events differ from our seminars in that they are exclusively sponsored by a single IT vendor and the content is driven primarily by the sole sponsor.

Our key strategic initiatives include:

Geographic During 2014 approximately 30% of our total revenues were derived from international geo-targeted campaigns (international), where our target audience is outside North America. International revenue (which also includes international IT Deal Alert revenue of \$2.5 million as discussed below) increased by approximately 30% in the year ended December 31, 2014 as compared to the same period a year ago. We continue to execute very well internationally as we continue to deepen our relatively new relationships with our customers in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Australia, Singapore, China and Latin America.

Table of Contents

Product IT Deal Alert revenues were approximately \$16.8 million in the year ended December 31, 2014, up from approximately \$3.9 million in the same period in 2013. This includes international IT Deal Alert revenue of \$2.5 million, which is also included in international revenues discussed above. In the fourth quarter of 2014 we had over 190 active customers utilizing our IT Deal Alert service; this is up from 175 customers in the third quarter of 2014. We expect IT Deal Alert to continue to be a meaningful growth driver into 2015.

Revenue growth for the three and twelve month periods ended December 31, 2014 as compared to the same periods in 2013 was as follows:

	Three months ended		Growth rate	Twelve months ended		Growth rate
	December 31, 2014	2013		December 31, 2014	2013	
	(\$ s in thousands)			(\$ s in thousands)		
Total Online	\$ 27,657	\$ 22,033	26%	\$ 97,607	\$ 79,709	22%
Total Online by Geographic Area:						
North America:						
North America Core Online	14,968	12,581	19%	52,734	52,737	0%
North America IT Deal Alert	3,690	2,578	43%	14,257	3,537	303%
Total North America Online	18,658	15,159	23%	66,991	56,274	19%
International:						
International Core Online	8,154	6,655	23%	28,090	23,086	22%
International IT Deal Alert	845	219	286%	2,526	349	624%
Total International Online	8,999	6,874	31%	30,616	23,435	31%
Total Online by Product:						
Core Online:						
North America Core Online	14,968	12,581	19%	52,734	52,737	0%
International Core Online	8,154	6,655	23%	28,090	23,086	22%
Total Core Online	23,122	19,236	20%	80,824	75,823	7%
IT Deal Alert:						
North America IT Deal Alert	3,690	2,578	43%	14,257	3,537	303%
International IT Deal Alert	845	219	286%	2,526	349	624%
Total IT Deal Alert	4,535	2,797	62%	16,783	3,886	332%
Total Events	2,989	1,706	75%	8,596	8,787	-2%
Total Revenues	\$ 30,646	\$ 23,739	29%	\$ 106,203	\$ 88,496	20%

Cost of Revenues, Operating Expenses and Other

Expenses consist of cost of online and event revenues, selling and marketing, product development, general and administrative, depreciation, amortization and net interest and other expenses. Personnel-related costs are a significant component of each of these expense categories except for depreciation, amortization, and net interest and other related expenses.

Cost of Online Revenue. Cost of online revenues consist primarily of: salaries and related personnel costs; member acquisition expenses (primarily keyword purchases from leading Internet search sites); freelance writer expenses; website hosting costs; vendor expenses associated with the delivery of webcast, podcast, videocast and similar content, and list rental offerings; stock-based compensation expenses; facility expenses and other related overhead.

Cost of Events Revenue. Cost of events revenues consist primarily of: direct expenses, including site, food and beverages for the event attendees and event speaker expenses; salaries and related personnel costs; travel-related expenses; stock-based compensation expenses; facilities expenses and other related overhead.

Table of Contents

Selling and Marketing. Selling and marketing expenses consist primarily of: salaries and related personnel costs; sales commissions; travel-related expenses; stock-based compensation expenses; facility expenses and other related overhead. Sales commissions are recorded as expense when earned by the employee, based on recorded revenue.

Product Development. Product development includes the creation and maintenance of our network of websites, advertiser offerings and technical infrastructure. Product development expense consists primarily of salaries and related personnel costs; stock-based compensation expenses; facility expenses and other related overhead.

General and Administrative. General and administrative expenses consist primarily of: salaries and related personnel costs; facility expenses and related overhead; accounting, legal and other professional fees; and stock-based compensation expenses.

Depreciation. Depreciation expense consists of the depreciation of our property and equipment. Depreciation of property and equipment is calculated using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives, ranging from two to ten years.

Amortization of Intangible Assets. Amortization of intangible assets expense consists of the amortization of intangible assets recorded in connection with our acquisitions. Separable intangible assets that are not deemed to have an indefinite life are amortized over their estimated useful lives, which range from three to ten years, using methods that are expected to reflect the estimated pattern of economic use.

Interest and Other Income (Expense), Net. Interest income (expense), net consists primarily of interest income earned on cash, cash equivalents and short and long-term investments less any interest expense incurred. We historically have invested our cash in money market accounts, municipal bonds and government agency bonds. Other income (expense), net consists of non-operating gains or losses, primarily related to foreign currency exchange.

Application of Critical Accounting Policies and Use of Estimates

The discussion of our financial condition and results of operations is based upon our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates, judgments and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. On an ongoing basis, we evaluate our estimates, including those related to revenue, long-lived assets, goodwill, allowance for doubtful accounts, stock-based compensation, contingent liabilities, self-insurance accruals and income taxes. We based our estimates of the carrying value of certain assets and liabilities on historical experience and on various other assumptions that we believe to be reasonable. In some cases, changes in the accounting estimates are reasonably likely to occur from period to period. Our actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions.

We believe the following critical accounting policies affect our more significant judgments used in the preparation of our consolidated financial statements. See the notes to our consolidated financial statements for information about these critical accounting policies as well as a description of our other accounting policies.

Revenue Recognition

We generate substantially all of our revenue from the sale of targeted advertising campaigns which we deliver via our network of websites and events. In all cases, we recognize revenue only when the price is fixed or determinable, persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, the service is performed and collectability of the resulting receivable is

reasonably assured.

The majority of our online media sales involve multiple product offerings. Although each of our online media offerings can be sold separately, most of our online media sales involve multiple online offerings. Because objective evidence of fair value does not exist for all elements in our bundled product offerings, we use a best estimate of selling price of individual deliverables in the arrangement in the absence of vendor-specific objective evidence or other third-party evidence of fair value. We establish best estimates considering multiple factors including, but not limited to, class of client, size of transaction, available media inventory, pricing strategies and market conditions. We believe the use of the best estimate of selling price allows revenue recognition in a manner consistent with the underlying economics of the transaction. We apply a relative selling price method to allocate arrangement consideration at the inception of the arrangement to each deliverable in a multiple element arrangement. Revenue is then recognized as delivery occurs.

Table of Contents

We evaluate all deliverables of an arrangement at inception and each time an item is delivered, to determine whether they represent separate units of accounting. Based on this evaluation, the arrangement consideration is measured and allocated to each of these elements.

Online Offerings

Core Online.

Lead Generation. As part of these offerings, we guarantee a minimum number of qualified leads to be delivered over the course of the advertising campaign. We determine the content necessary to achieve performance guarantees. Scheduled end dates of advertising campaigns sometimes need to be extended, pursuant to the terms of the arrangement, to satisfy lead guarantee obligations. We estimate a revenue reserve necessary to adjust revenue recognition for extended advertising campaigns. These estimates are based on our experience in managing and fulfilling these offerings. The customer has cancellation privileges which generally require advance notice by the customer and require proportional payment by the customer for the portion of the campaign period that has been provided. Additionally, we offer sales incentives to certain customers, primarily in the form of volume rebates, which are classified as a reduction of revenues and are calculated based on the terms of the specific customer's contract. We accrue for these sales incentives based on contractual terms and historical experience. We recognize revenue from cost per lead advertising and duration-based campaigns in the period during which the leads are delivered, which is typically less than six months.

Branding. Branding consists mostly of banner revenue, which is recognized in the period in which the banner impressions, engagements or clicks occur.

Custom Content Creation. Custom content revenue is recognized when the creation is completed and delivered to the customer, with the exception of microsites which are recognized over the period during which they are live.

Content Sponsorships. Content sponsorship revenue is recognized ratably over the period in which the related content vehicle is available on our websites.

List Rentals. List rental revenue is recognized in the period in which delivery of the list is made to our customers.

Third Party Revenue Sharing Arrangements. Revenue from third party revenue sharing arrangements is recognized on a net basis in the period in which the services are performed. For certain third party agreements where we are the primary obligor, revenue is recognized on a gross basis in the period in which the services are performed.

IT Deal Alert. IT Deal Alert is a suite of products which includes Qualified Sales Opportunities and Account Watch (which was introduced in 2014 and rebranded in 2015 as Priority Engine). Qualified Sales Opportunities revenue is recognized when the opportunity is delivered to the customer; Account Watch revenue is recognized ratably over the duration of the service.

Events

We recognize revenue from events in the period in which the event occurs. The majority of our events are free to qualified attendees; however, certain events are based on a paid attendee model. We recognize revenue for paid attendee events upon completion of the event.

Amounts collected or billed prior to satisfying the above revenue recognition criteria are recorded as deferred revenue.

Long-Lived Assets

Our long-lived assets consist primarily of property and equipment, capitalized software, goodwill and other intangible assets. Goodwill and other intangible assets have arisen principally from our acquisitions. The amount assigned to intangible assets is subjective and based on our estimates of the future benefit of the intangible assets using accepted valuation techniques, such as discounted cash flow and replacement cost models. Our long-lived assets, other than goodwill, are amortized over their estimated useful lives, which we determine based on the consideration of several factors including the period of time the asset is expected to remain in service. Intangible assets are amortized over their estimated useful lives, which range from three to ten years, using methods of amortization that are expected to reflect the estimated pattern of economic use. Consistent with our determination that we have only

Table of Contents

one reporting segment, we have determined that there is only one reporting unit and test goodwill for impairment at the entity level. We evaluate the carrying value and remaining useful lives of long-lived assets, other than goodwill, whenever indicators of impairment are present. We evaluate the carrying value of goodwill annually using the two step process required by Accounting Standards Codification 350, *Intangibles – Goodwill and Other* (ASC 350). The first step of the impairment test is to identify potential impairment by comparing the reporting unit's fair value with its net book value (or carrying amount), including goodwill. The fair value is estimated based on a market value approach. If the fair value of the reporting unit exceeds its carrying amount, the reporting unit's goodwill is not considered to be impaired and the second step of the impairment test is not performed. Whenever indicators of impairment are present, we would perform the second step and compare the implied fair value of the reporting unit's goodwill, as defined by ASC 350, to its carrying value to determine the amount of the impairment loss, if any. As of December 31, 2014, there were no indications of impairment based on our step one analysis, and our estimated fair value exceeded our carrying value by a significant margin.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

Financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, short-term and long-term investments, accounts receivable, accounts payable and contingent consideration. Due to their short-term nature and liquidity, the carrying value of these instruments with the exception of contingent consideration approximates their estimated fair values. The fair value of contingent consideration was estimated using a discounted cash flow method.

Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

We offset gross trade accounts receivable with an allowance for doubtful accounts. The allowance for doubtful accounts is our best estimate of the amount of probable credit losses in our existing accounts receivable. We review our allowance for doubtful accounts on a regular basis, and all past due balances are reviewed individually for collectability. Account balances are charged against the allowance after all means of collection have been exhausted and the potential for recovery is considered remote. Provisions for doubtful accounts are recorded in general and administrative expense. If our historical collection experience does not reflect our future ability to collect outstanding accounts receivable, our future provision for doubtful accounts could be materially affected. To date, we have not incurred any write-offs of accounts receivable significantly different than the amounts reserved.

The allowance for doubtful accounts was \$1.0 and \$0.9 million at December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

Stock-Based Compensation

We measure stock-based compensation at the grant date based on the fair value of the award and recognize stock-based compensation in our results of operations using the straight-line method over the vesting period of the award or using the accelerated method if the award is contingent upon performance goals. We use the Black-Scholes option pricing model to determine the fair value of stock option awards. We calculated the fair values of the options granted using the following estimated weighted average assumptions:

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Expected volatility	78%	67%	88%
Expected term	6 years	5 years	5 years
Risk-free interest rate	1.62%	0.58%	0.36%

Edgar Filing: TechTarget Inc - Form 10-K

Expected dividend yield		%		%		%
Weighted-average grant date fair value per share	\$	7.22	\$	3.89	\$	3.63

The expected volatility of options granted in 2014 and 2013 was determined using a weighted average of the historical volatility of our stock for a period equal to the expected life of the option. In 2012, as there had been limited historical information on the volatility of our common stock since the date of our initial public offering in May 2007, we determined the volatility for options granted based on an analysis of the combined historical volatility of our stock and reported data for a peer group of companies that issued options with substantially similar terms. The risk-free interest rate is based on a zero coupon United States treasury instrument whose term is consistent with the expected life of the stock options. We have not paid and do not anticipate paying cash dividends on our shares of common stock; therefore, the expected dividend yield is assumed to be zero. We applied an estimated annual forfeiture rate in determining the expense recorded in each year.

Table of Contents***Internal-Use Software and Website Development Costs***

We capitalize costs of materials, consultants and compensation and related expenses of employees who devote time to the development of internal-use software and website applications and infrastructure involving developing software to operate our websites. However, we expense as incurred website development costs for new features and functionalities since it is not probable that they will result in additional functionality until they are both developed and tested with confirmation that they are more effective than the current set of features and functionalities on our websites. Our judgment is required in determining the point at which various projects enter the state at which costs may be capitalized, in assessing the ongoing value of the capitalized costs and in determining the estimated useful lives over which the costs are amortized, which is generally three years. To the extent that we change the manner in which we develop and test new features and functionalities related to our websites, assess the ongoing value of capitalized assets or determine the estimated useful lives over which the costs are amortized, the amount of website development costs we capitalize and amortize in future periods would be impacted. We review capitalized internal-use software and website development costs for recoverability whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of the asset may not be recoverable. We would recognize an impairment loss only if the carrying amount of the asset is not recoverable and exceeds its fair value. We capitalized internal-use software and website development costs of \$3.0 million, \$3.6 million and \$3.0 million for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Income Taxes

We are subject to income taxes in both the United States and foreign jurisdictions, and we use estimates in determining our provision for income taxes. We recognize deferred tax assets and liabilities based on temporary differences between the financial reporting and income tax bases of assets and liabilities using statutory rates.

Our deferred tax assets are comprised primarily of book to tax differences on stock-based compensation, timing of deductions for deferred rent expense and accrued expenses, and net operating loss (NOL) carryforwards. As of December 31, 2014, we had state NOL carryforwards of approximately \$20.5 million, which may be used to offset future taxable income. The NOL carryforwards expire through 2035. We also had foreign NOL carryforwards of \$1.1 million, which may be used to offset future taxable income in foreign jurisdictions until they expire, through 2019.

Net Income (Loss) Per Share

We calculate basic earnings per share (EPS) by dividing earnings available to common shareholders for the period by the weighted average number of common shares and vested, undelivered restricted stock awards. Because the holders of unvested restricted stock awards do not have nonforfeitable rights to dividends or dividend equivalents, we do not consider these awards to be participating securities that should be included in our computation of earnings per share under the two-class method. Diluted EPS is computed using the weighted-average number of common shares and vested, undelivered restricted stock awards during the period, plus the dilutive effect of potential future issuances of common stock relating to stock option programs and other potentially dilutive securities using the treasury stock method. In calculating diluted EPS, the dilutive effect of stock options and restricted stock awards is computed using the average market price for the respective period. In addition, the assumed proceeds under the treasury stock method include the average unrecognized compensation expense and assumed tax benefit of stock options and restricted stock awards that are in-the-money. This results in the assumed buyback of additional shares, thereby reducing the dilutive impact of stock options.

Table of Contents**Results of Operations**

The following table sets forth our results of operations for the periods indicated:

	Years Ended December 31,					
	2014	2013		2012		
	(\$ in thousands)					
Revenues:						
Online	\$ 97,607	92%	\$ 79,709	90%	\$ 88,192	88%
Events	8,596	8	8,787	10	11,799	12
Total revenues	106,203	100	88,496	100	99,991	100
Cost of revenues:						
Online	24,629	23	23,362	27	23,513	24
Events	3,418	3	3,771	4	4,301	4
Total cost of revenues	28,047	26	27,133	31	27,814	28
Gross profit	78,156	74	61,363	69	72,177	72
Operating expenses:						
Selling and marketing	42,836	40	36,920	42	36,718	37
Product development	7,161	7	6,715	8	7,521	8
General and administrative	14,878	14	13,916	16	13,112	13
Depreciation	4,060	4	3,823	4	3,279	3
Amortization of intangible assets	1,762	2	2,223	2	3,351	3
Total operating expenses	70,697	67	63,597	72	63,981	64
Operating income (loss)	7,459	7	(2,234)	(3)	8,196	8
Interest and other (expense) income, net	(333)		(260)		13	
Income (loss) before provision for (benefit from) income taxes	7,126	7	(2,494)	(3)	8,209	8
Provision for (benefit from) income taxes	3,045	3	(657)	(1)	4,185	4
Net income (loss)	\$ 4,081	4%	\$ (1,837)	(2)%	\$ 4,024	4%

Comparison of Fiscal Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013**Revenues**

Years Ended December 31,
2014 2013

			Increase (Decrease)	Percent Change
			(\$ in thousands)	
Revenues:				
Online	\$ 97,607	\$ 79,709	\$ 17,898	22%
Events	8,596	8,787	(191)	(2)
Total revenues	\$ 106,203	\$ 88,496	\$ 17,707	20%

Online. Online revenue for the year ended December 31, 2014 (fiscal 2014) represented a \$17.9 million increase over the year ended December 31, 2013 (fiscal 2013). This increase was primarily attributable to a \$12.9 million increase in revenues from new product offerings, primarily IT Deal Alert, and growth of international core online.

Events. The decrease in events revenue is primarily due to a reduction in the number of conferences and editorial events held during the period, partially offset by an increase in the number of custom events that we conducted.

Cost of Revenues and Gross Profit

	Years Ended December 31,			
	2014	2013	Increase (Decrease)	Percent Change
			(\$ in thousands)	
Cost of revenues:				
Online	\$ 24,629	\$ 23,362	\$ 1,267	5%
Events	3,418	3,771	(353)	(9)
Total cost of revenues	\$ 28,047	\$ 27,133	\$ 914	3%
Gross profit	\$ 78,156	\$ 61,363	\$ 16,793	27%
Gross profit percentage	74%	69%		

Cost of Online Revenue. The increase in cost of online revenues was primarily attributable to costs related to new product offerings.

Cost of Events Revenue. The decrease in cost of events revenues was primarily due to decreases in variable direct and employee-related costs as a result of the decrease in the number of events that we conducted.

Table of Contents

Gross Profit. Our gross profit is equal to the difference between our revenues and our cost of revenues for the period. Gross profit for fiscal 2014 was 74% as compared to 69% for fiscal 2013. Online gross profit increased \$16.6 million in fiscal 2014 as compared to the same period in 2013, primarily attributable to the increase in online revenue as compared to the same period a year ago, along with our ability to support this revenue growth with our fixed cost base. Events gross profit increased by \$0.2 million, primarily as a result of variable cost savings on the events we ran in fiscal 2014. Because the majority of our costs are labor-related, we expect our gross profit to fluctuate from period to period depending on the total revenues for the period, as well as the relative contribution of online and events revenues to our total revenues.

Operating Expenses and Other

	Years Ended December 31,			Percent Change
	2014	2013	Increase (Decrease)	
	(\$ in thousands)			
Operating expenses:				
Selling and marketing	\$ 42,836	\$ 36,920	\$ 5,916	16%
Product development	7,161	6,715	446	7
General and administrative	14,878	13,916	962	7
Depreciation	4,060	3,823	237	6
Amortization of intangible assets	1,762	2,223	(461)	(21)
Total operating expenses	\$ 70,697	\$ 63,597	\$ 7,100	11%
Interest and other expense, net	\$ (333)	\$ (260)	\$ (73)	(28)%
Provision for (benefit from) income taxes	\$ 3,045	\$ (657)	\$ 3,702	(563)%

Selling and Marketing. Selling and marketing expenses increased year over year, primarily due to increased investment in product innovation as well as variable compensation-related expenses caused by the increase in revenues and increased costs due to international expansion.

Product Development. The increase in product development expense was primarily caused by a reduction in the amount of these costs that were capitalized year over year as some resources were allocated to non-capitalized projects due to company priorities.

General and Administrative. The increase in general and administrative expense for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to the same period in 2013 was primarily due to a \$1.8 million increase in stock-based and other incentive compensation related directly to our financial results and \$0.5 million in fees related to a secondary public offering in the second quarter of 2014, offset in part by a decrease in legal fees.

Depreciation and Amortization of Intangible Assets. The increase in depreciation expense is related to an increase in our fixed asset base, primarily as a result of our continued investment in internal-use software development costs and computer equipment. The decrease in amortization of intangible assets expense was attributable to certain intangible

assets becoming fully amortized during fiscal 2013.

Interest and Other (Expense) Income, Net. The increase in interest and other expense, net, is primarily due to an increase in foreign currency-related charges due to changes in exchange rates in countries where we record accounts receivable and accounts payable in the normal course of business; other expense in fiscal 2014 was \$0.3 million compared to \$0.2 million in fiscal 2013. Interest expense was relatively flat year over year.

Provision for Income Taxes. Our effective tax rate was 43% and 26% for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively. The Company has permanent differences that increase its tax expense on income or reduce its tax benefit on loss; the lower rate in 2013 as compared to 2014 is primarily due to our pre-tax loss position in the U.S. for 2013. The effective tax rate differs from the statutory rate primarily due to the permanent difference of nondeductible expenses and state income taxes.

Reclassifications. Beginning in the third quarter of 2014, we changed the presentation of transactional gains and losses arising from the impact of currency exchange rate fluctuations on transactions in foreign currency that is different from the local functional currency in order to better reflect the non-operating nature of these gains and losses, and are now including them in Other Income (Expense) on the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss). Previously, these gains and losses were included in our operating expenses as General and Administrative expense. Amounts in the prior periods consolidated financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the current presentation. In 2013, this resulted in an increase to Other Expense and a decrease in General and Administrative expense equal to \$0.2 million.

Table of Contents**Comparison of Fiscal Years Ended December 31, 2013 and 2012****Revenues**

	Years Ended December 31,			Percent Change
	2013	2012	Increase (Decrease) (\$ in thousands)	
Revenues:				
Online	\$ 79,709	\$ 88,192	\$ (8,483)	(10)%
Events	8,787	11,799	(3,012)	(26)
Total revenues	\$ 88,496	\$ 99,991	\$ (11,495)	(11)%

Online. The decrease in online revenue was primarily attributable to an \$11.6 million decrease in lead generation offerings as well as a \$1.4 million decrease in branding revenues, primarily due to lower banner sales volume. The decrease in lead generation and branding revenues is primarily in North American sales, caused by continued delays in IT purchases due to uncertainty in the macro environment. This decrease is offset in part by an increase in international revenues as we continue to migrate from a partnership model to international direct operations. Additionally, there was a \$4.1 million increase in revenues from new product offerings, primarily IT Deal Alert, and a \$0.5 million increase in third party revenues.

Events. The decrease in events revenue is primarily due to a reduction in the number of seminars and custom events that we conducted.

Cost of Revenues and Gross Profit

	Years Ended December 31,			Percent Change
	2013	2012	Increase (Decrease) (\$ in thousands)	
Cost of revenues:				
Online	\$ 23,362	\$ 23,513	\$ (151)	(1)%
Events	3,771	4,301	(530)	(12)
Total cost of revenues	\$ 27,133	\$ 27,814	\$ (681)	(2)%
Gross profit	\$ 61,363	\$ 72,177	\$ (10,814)	(15)%
Gross profit percentage	69%	72%		

Cost of Online Revenue. The decrease in cost of online revenues was primarily attributable to a reduction in variable direct, third party and employee-related costs due to the decrease in online revenues year over year, offset in part by costs related to new product offerings.

Cost of Events Revenue. Cost of events revenues decreased in the year ended December 31, 2013 (fiscal 2013) as compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily due to decreases in variable direct costs as a result of the decrease in the number of events that we conducted.

Gross Profit. Our gross profit is equal to the difference between our revenues and our cost of revenues for the period. Gross profit for fiscal 2013 was 69% and for the year ended December 31, 2012 (fiscal 2012) was 72%. Online gross profit decreased \$8.3 million in fiscal 2013 as compared to the same period in 2012, primarily attributable to the decrease in online revenue as compared to the same period a year ago. Events gross profit decreased by \$2.5 million, primarily as a result of the lower events revenues, which were offset in part by a reduction in related variable direct costs. Because the majority of our costs are labor-related, we expect our gross profit to fluctuate from period to period depending on the total revenues for the period, as well as the relative contribution of online and events revenues to our total revenues.

Table of Contents**Operating Expenses and Other**

	Years Ended December 31,			Percent Change
	2013	2012	Increase (Decrease) (\$ in thousands)	
Operating expenses:				
Selling and marketing	\$ 36,920	\$ 36,718	\$ 202	1%
Product development	6,715	7,521	(806)	(11)
General and administrative	13,916	13,112	804	6
Depreciation	3,823	3,279	544	17
Amortization of intangible assets	2,223	3,351	(1,128)	(34)
Total operating expenses	\$ 63,597	\$ 63,981	\$ (384)	(1)%
Interest and other (expense) income, net	\$ (260)	\$ 13	\$ (273)	(2100)%
(Benefit from) provision for income taxes	\$ (657)	\$ 4,185	\$ (4,842)	(116)%

Selling and Marketing. Selling and marketing expenses increased \$0.2 million in fiscal 2013 over 2012, primarily related to a \$0.3 million increase in international employee-related expenses, including tax equalization, due to international expansion. This increase was offset in part by a \$0.1 million decrease in stock-based compensation due to the completion of vesting of certain equity awards.

Product Development. The decrease in product development expense in fiscal 2013 was primarily caused by a \$0.7 million reduction in payroll and allocated costs, most of which is due to these costs being capitalized at higher levels resulting from our ongoing internal development projects.

General and Administrative. The increase in general and administrative expense was primarily attributable to a \$0.6 million increase in legal fees, a \$0.5 million increase in stock-based compensation, primarily due to grants made late in 2012 and a \$0.2 million charge related to contingent consideration. These increases were offset in part by a \$0.3 million decrease in bad debt expense and a \$0.2 million reduction in employee-related and corporate expenses.

Depreciation and Amortization of Intangible Assets. The increase in depreciation expense is related to our increased fixed asset base, primarily as a result of our continued investment in internal-use software development costs and computer equipment. The decrease in amortization of intangible assets expense was primarily attributable to certain intangible assets becoming fully amortized during late 2012 or early 2013, partially offset by amortization of intangible assets related to the LeMag acquisition that took place in the fourth quarter of 2012.

Interest and Other (Expense) Income, Net. Interest expense was \$20,000 in fiscal 2013 compared to interest income of \$0.1 million in fiscal 2012. The decrease in interest income, net, is due to present value discounts on installment payments related to the purchase of LeMagIT in the fourth quarter of 2012, which are partially offsetting our 2013 interest income. Other expense in fiscal 2013 was \$0.2 million compared to \$0.1 million in fiscal 2012. This increase in other expense was related to foreign currency-related charges due to changes in exchange rates in countries where

we record accounts receivable and accounts payable in the normal course of business.

Provision for Income Taxes. Our effective tax rate was 26% and 51% for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively. The lower rate in 2013 as compared to 2012 is primarily due to our pre-tax loss position in the U.S. for 2013. The effective tax rate differs from the statutory rate primarily due to the permanent difference of nondeductible stock-based compensation expense of \$0.3 million and \$1.2 million for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Reclassifications. Beginning in the third quarter of 2014, we changed the presentation of transactional gains and losses arising from the impact of currency exchange rate fluctuations on transactions in foreign currency that is different from the local functional currency in order to better reflect the non-operating nature of these gains and losses, and are now including them in Other Income (Expense) on the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss). Previously, these gains and losses were included in our operating expenses as General and Administrative expense. Amounts in the prior periods consolidated financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the current presentation. In the twelve months ended December 31, 2013, this resulted in an increase to Other Expense and a decrease in General and Administrative expense equal to \$0.2 million and for the twelve months ended December 31, 2012, this resulted in a decrease to Other Income and a decrease in General and Administrative expense amounting to \$0.1 million.

Table of Contents**Selected Quarterly Results of Operations**

The following table presents our unaudited quarterly consolidated results of operations for the eight quarters ended December 31, 2014. The unaudited quarterly consolidated information has been prepared on the same basis as our audited consolidated financial statements. You should read the following table presenting our quarterly consolidated results of operations in conjunction with our audited consolidated financial statements and the related notes included elsewhere in this Annual Report. The operating results for any quarter are not necessarily indicative of the operating results for any future period.

	For the Three Months Ended							
	2014				2013			
	Mar. 31	Jun. 30	Sep. 30	Dec. 31	Mar. 31	Jun. 30	Sep. 30	Dec. 31
	(in thousands, except per share data)							
Revenues:								
Online	\$ 22,080	\$ 23,652	\$ 24,218	\$ 27,657	\$ 18,475	\$ 20,371	\$ 18,830	\$ 22,033
Events	897	2,496	2,214	2,989	1,073	2,727	3,281	1,706
Total revenues	22,977	26,148	26,432	30,646	19,548	23,098	22,111	23,739
Cost of revenues:								
Online	6,090	6,149	5,949	6,441	5,928	6,138	5,514	5,782
Events	547	979	805	1,087	676	1,087	1,221	787
Total cost of revenues	6,637	7,128	6,754	7,528	6,604	7,225	6,735	6,569
Gross profit	16,340	19,020	19,678	23,118	12,944	15,873	15,376	17,170
Operating expenses:								
Selling and marketing	9,746	10,007	10,964	12,119	9,120	9,093	8,773	9,934
Product development	1,605	1,742	1,854	1,960	1,741	1,676	1,680	1,618
General and administrative	3,352	3,884	3,628	4,014	3,167	3,418	3,722	3,609
Depreciation	989	1,012	1,024	1,035	872	985	961	1,005
Amortization of intangible assets	451	454	451	406	734	548	474	467
Total operating expenses	16,143	17,099	17,921	19,534	15,634	15,720	15,610	16,633
Operating income (loss)	197	1,921	1,757	3,584	(2,690)	153	(234)	537
Interest and other income (expense), net	10	99	(230)	(212)	(137)	(236)	148	(35)
Income (loss) before provision for (benefit from) income taxes	207	2,020	1,527	3,372	(2,827)	(83)	(86)	502
Provision for (benefit from) income taxes	72	717	589	1,667	(1,285)	788	(663)	503

Edgar Filing: TechTarget Inc - Form 10-K

Net income (loss)	\$	135	\$	1,303	\$	938	\$	1,705	\$	(1,542)	\$	(871)	\$	577	\$	(1)	
Net income (loss) per share																	
- basic	\$	0.00	\$	0.04	\$	0.03	\$	0.05	\$	(0.04)	\$	(0.02)	\$	0.01	\$	(0.00)	
Net income (loss) per share																	
- diluted	\$	0.00	\$	0.04	\$	0.03	\$	0.05	\$	(0.04)	\$	(0.02)	\$	0.01	\$	(0.00)	

Seasonality

The timing of our revenues is affected by seasonal factors. Our revenues are seasonal primarily as a result of the annual budget approval process of many of our customers, the normal timing at which our customers have their new product introductions, and the historical decrease in advertising and events activity in summer months. Events revenue may vary depending on which quarters we produce the event, which may vary when compared to previous periods. The timing of revenues in relation to our expenses, much of which does not vary directly with revenue, has an impact on the cost of online revenues, selling and marketing, product development, and general and administrative expenses as a percentage of revenue in each calendar quarter during the year.

The majority of our expenses are personnel-related and include salaries, stock-based compensation, benefits and incentive-based compensation plan expenses. As a result, we have not experienced significant seasonal fluctuations in the timing of our expenses period to period.

Table of Contents**Liquidity and Capital Resources*****Resources***

At December 31, 2014, we had \$36.9 million of working capital, and our cash and cash equivalents totaled \$19.3 million. Our cash, cash equivalents and investments increased \$4.4 million during fiscal 2014, primarily from cash generated by our operations, as well as cash received from employee stock option exercises, offset by the repurchase of shares under our stock repurchase plan and purchases of property and equipment. We believe that our existing cash, cash equivalents, and investments, our cash flow from operating activities and available bank borrowings will be sufficient to meet our anticipated cash needs for at least the next 12 months. Our future working capital requirements will depend on many factors, including the operations of our existing business, our potential strategic expansion internationally, future acquisitions we might undertake, and the expansion into complementary businesses. To the extent that our cash and cash equivalents, investments and cash flow from operating activities are insufficient to fund our future activities, we may need to raise additional funds through bank credit arrangements or public or private equity or debt financings. We also may need to raise additional funds in the event we determine in the future to effect one or more additional acquisitions of businesses.

	As of December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
	(in thousands)		
Cash, cash equivalents and investments	\$ 38,183	\$ 33,772	\$ 76,340
Accounts receivable, net	\$ 23,200	\$ 22,116	\$ 24,185

Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments

Our cash, cash equivalents and investments at December 31, 2014 were held for working capital purposes and were invested primarily in money market accounts, municipal bonds and government agency bonds. We do not enter into investments for trading or speculative purposes.

Accounts Receivable, Net

Our accounts receivable balance fluctuates from period to period, which affects our cash flow from operating activities. The fluctuations vary depending on the timing of our service delivery and billing activity, cash collections, and changes to our allowance for doubtful accounts. We use days sales outstanding, (DSO), as a measurement of the quality and status of our receivables. We define DSO as net accounts receivable at quarter end divided by total revenue for the applicable period, multiplied by the number of days in the applicable period. DSO was 70 days at December 31, 2014, 86 days at December 31, 2013 and 88 days at December 31, 2012. The decrease in DSO year over year is primarily due to more timely payments from all classes of customers.

Operating Activities

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
	(in thousands)		
Cash provided by operating activities	\$ 18,217	\$ 8,275	\$ 18,636

Edgar Filing: TechTarget Inc - Form 10-K

Cash used in investing activities(1)	\$ (3,847)	\$ (4,477)	\$ (5,267)
Cash (used in) provided by financing activities	\$ (9,535)	\$ (45,986)	\$ 652

(1) Cash used in investing activities is shown net of purchases and sales/maturities of investments of \$(0.9) million, \$9.1 million and \$8.6 million for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Cash provided by operating activities primarily consists of net income adjusted for certain non-cash items including depreciation and amortization, the provision for bad debt, stock-based compensation, deferred income taxes, and the effect of changes in working capital and other activities. Cash provided by operating activities for the year ended December 31, 2014 was \$18.2 million compared to \$8.3 million and \$18.6 million in the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Table of Contents

The increase in cash provided by operations in fiscal 2014 compared to fiscal 2013 was primarily caused by a \$5.5 million increase in net income adjusted for non-cash related items, which was primarily related to net income of \$4.1 million in 2014 compared to a net loss of \$1.8 million in 2013 and stock-based compensation of \$7.3 million in 2014 compared with \$5.6 million in 2013. Also contributing to this increase in cash from operations was positive adjustments in operating assets and liabilities of \$0.8 million in 2014 as compared to net cash used by changes in operating assets and liabilities of \$3.6 million in 2013. Significant components of the changes in assets and liabilities included an increase in income taxes payable of \$4.7 million in 2014 compared to a decrease of \$5.0 million in 2013 and an increase in accrued compensation of \$0.5 million in 2014 compared to a de minimis decrease in 2013, offset in part by an increase of \$1.8 million in accounts receivable in 2014 compared with a decrease of \$1.5 million in 2013, a decrease in deferred revenue of \$0.2 million in 2014 compared to an increase of \$1.1 million in 2013 and a decrease in accrued expenses of \$0.6 million in 2014 compared to an increase of \$0.4 million in 2013.

The decrease in cash provided by operations in fiscal 2013 compared to fiscal 2012 was primarily caused by a \$5.6 million decrease in net income adjusted for non-cash related items, which was primarily related to a net loss of \$1.8 million in 2013 compared to net income of \$4.0 million in 2012. Also contributing was net cash used by changes in operating assets and liabilities of \$3.6 million in 2013 as compared to net cash provided by changes in operating assets and liabilities of \$1.2 million in 2012. Significant components of the changes in assets and liabilities included a reduction in income taxes payable of \$5.0 million in 2013 as compared with an increase of \$0.3 million in 2013, offset by an increase in accrued expenses of \$0.5 million in 2013 as compared with a decrease of \$1.4 million in 2012, caused primarily by a \$1.4 million payment of contingent compensation in 2012 that had been accrued in 2011.

Investing Activities

Cash used in investing activities in the year ended December 31, 2014, excluding purchases and sales/maturities of investments, was \$3.8 million for the purchase of property and equipment, primarily website development costs, computer equipment and related software and internal-use development costs.

Cash used in investing activities in the year ended December 31, 2013, excluding purchases and sales/maturities of investments, was \$4.5 million for the purchase of property and equipment, primarily website development costs, computer equipment and related software and internal-use development costs.

Cash used in investing activities in the year ended December 31, 2012, excluding purchases and sales/maturities of investments, was \$4.2 million for the purchase of property and equipment, primarily website development costs, computer equipment and related software and internal-use development costs. Additionally, cash investment of \$1.1 million was made for the purchase of LeMagIT in December 2012.

We have made capital expenditures primarily for computer equipment and related software needed to host our websites, internal-use software development costs, as well as for leasehold improvements and other general purposes to support our growth. Our capital expenditures totaled \$3.8 million, \$4.5 million and \$4.1 million for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. A majority of our capital expenditures in 2014 were internal-use development costs and, to a lesser extent, computer equipment and related software. We are not currently party to any purchase contracts related to future capital expenditures.

We expect to spend approximately \$3.8 million in capital expenditures in 2015, primarily for internal-use software development costs, computer equipment and related software. We are not currently party to any purchase contracts related to future capital expenditures.

Financing Activities

We received proceeds from the exercise of common stock options totaling \$4.8 million, \$1.6 million and \$0.8 million for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

On August 4, 2014, our Board of Directors authorized a \$20 million stock repurchase program (the 2014 Program). Under the 2014 Program, we are authorized to repurchase our common stock from time to time on the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. The timing and amount of any shares repurchased will be determined based on an evaluation of market conditions and other factors. We may elect to implement a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan to make such purchases, which would permit shares to be repurchased when we might otherwise be precluded from doing so under insider trading laws. The 2014 Program may be suspended or discontinued at any time. During the year ended December 31, 2014 we repurchased 1,551,224 shares of common stock for approximately \$15.0 million pursuant to the 2014 Program.

Table of Contents

On August 3, 2012, our Board of Directors authorized a \$20 million stock repurchase program (the 2012 Program). Under the 2012 Program, we were authorized to repurchase our common stock from time to time on the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. The timing and amount of any shares of common stock repurchased was determined based on an evaluation of market conditions and other factors. We elected to implement a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan to make such purchases, which permits shares of common stock to be repurchased when we might otherwise be precluded from doing so under insider trading laws. During the year ended December 31, 2013 we repurchased 2,610,279 shares of common stock for approximately \$12.4 million pursuant to the 2012 Program. The 2012 Program was terminated immediately prior to the commencement of a tender offer on September 25, 2013, through which we accepted for purchase 7,100,565 shares of our common stock for a total cost of \$35.6 million, which includes approximately \$0.1 million in fees and expenses.

Share Repurchase

On December 9, 2014, we entered into a Purchase Agreement with TCV V, L.P. (TCV V) and TCV Member Fund, L.P. (TCV Member Fund) and collectively with TCV V, TCV) pursuant to which we agreed to repurchase from TCV 1,000,000 shares of the Company s common stock, \$0.001 par value per share (the Common Stock) for an aggregate price of \$9,797,000. The purchase price per share of Common Stock was equal to 97% of the closing price of the Common Stock on the Nasdaq Global Market on December 8, 2014. The repurchase closed on December 10, 2014, and these shares are included in the 1,551,224 shares of common stock purchased under the 2014 plan noted above. Jay Hoag, a member of our board of directors, is a member of the general partner of TCV, which holds more than 5% of our voting securities.

Secondary Offering

In May 2014, we completed a secondary public offering of 5,750,000 shares of common stock at a price of \$6.25 per share. All of the shares sold in the secondary public offering were sold by selling stockholders and we did not receive any proceeds from the offering. We incurred fees of approximately \$0.5 million related to legal, accounting, and other fees in connection with the secondary public offering, which is included in general and administrative expenses in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income (Loss).

Tender Offer

On September 25, 2013, we commenced a tender offer to purchase up to 6.5 million shares of our common stock at a price of \$5.00 per share.

The tender offer expired on October 24, 2013. In accordance with applicable SEC regulations and the terms of the tender offer, we exercised the right to purchase additional shares and accepted for purchase 7,100,565 shares of our common stock for a total cost of \$35.6 million, which includes approximately \$0.1 million in fees and expenses. Pursuant to the terms of the tender offer, we purchased 2,250,000 shares of common stock from entities affiliated with Technology Crossover Ventures (TCV).

All repurchased shares were funded with cash on hand.

Accrued Stock-Based Compensation

We had approximately \$1.4 million included in accrued compensation expenses on our Consolidated Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2014 for stock-based compensation related to restricted stock awards that had been approved as of that date but had not been delivered. This non-cash compensation expense is recorded as part of stock compensation

expense in our Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income (Loss). There were no such accruals as of December 31, 2013 or 2012.

Term Loan and Credit Facility Borrowings

In August 2006, we entered into a credit agreement (the *Credit Agreement*) with a commercial bank, which included a \$10.0 million term loan (the *Term Loan*) and a \$20.0 million revolving credit facility (the *Revolving Credit Facility*). The *Credit Agreement* was amended in August 2007, in December 2008, in December 2009 and again in August 2011. The amendment in 2009 reduced the *Revolving Credit Facility* to \$5.0 million. We paid off the remaining balance of the *Term Loan* in December 2009. The amendment in August 2011 extended the term of the facility and adjusted certain other financial terms and covenants.

The *Revolving Credit Facility* has a maturity date of August 31, 2016. Unless earlier payment is required by an event of default, all principal and unpaid interest will be due and payable on August 31, 2016. At our option, the *Revolving Credit Facility* bears interest at either the prime rate less 1.00% or the London Interbank Offered Rate (*LIBOR*) plus the applicable *LIBOR* margin. The applicable *LIBOR* margin is based on the ratio of total funded debt to EBITDA for the preceding four fiscal quarters. As of December 31, 2014, the applicable *LIBOR* margin was 1.25%.

Table of Contents

We are also required to pay an unused line fee on the daily unused amount of our Revolving Credit Facility at a per annum rate based on the ratio of total funded debt to EBITDA for the preceding four fiscal quarters. As of December 31, 2014, unused availability under the Revolving Credit Facility totaled \$5.0 million and the per annum unused line fee rate was 0.20%.

As of December 31, 2014 there were no amounts outstanding under the revolving loan portion of our Revolving Credit Facility. A standby letter of credit (Letter of Credit) related to our corporate headquarters lease that had previously been outstanding against the Revolving Credit Facility was canceled in October 2014, bringing our available borrowings on the facility to \$5.0 million at December 31, 2014.

Borrowings under the Credit Agreement are collateralized by a security interest in substantially all of our assets. Covenants governing the Credit Agreement include the maintenance of certain financial ratios. As of December 31, 2014, we were in compliance with all covenants under the Credit Agreement.

Contractual Obligations and Commitments

As of December 31, 2014, our principal commitments consist of obligations under leases for office space. The offices are leased under non-cancelable operating lease agreements that expire through 2020.

The following table sets forth our commitments to settle contractual obligations in cash as of December 31, 2014:

Contractual Obligations	Payments Due By Period (in thousands)				
	Total	Less than 1 Year	1 3 Years	3 5 Years	More than 5 Years
Operating leases	\$ 20,119	\$ 4,091	\$ 7,791	\$ 7,665	\$ 572

See Note 9 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for further information with respect to our operating leases.

See Note 4 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for information regarding future payments related to the LeMagIT acquisition.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We do not have any off-balance sheet arrangements.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

See Note 2 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for recent accounting pronouncements that could have an effect on us.

Table of Contents**Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk**

Market risk represents the risk of loss that may impact our financial position due to adverse changes in financial market prices and rates. Our market risk exposure is primarily a result of fluctuations in foreign exchange rates and interest rates. We do not hold or issue financial instruments for trading purposes.

Foreign Currency Exchange Risk

We currently have subsidiaries in the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Australia, Singapore, Germany and France. Additionally, we have a wholly foreign-owned enterprise formed under the laws of the People's Republic of China, and a VIE in Beijing, PRC. Approximately 22% of our revenues for the year ended December 31, 2014 were derived from customers with billing addresses outside of North America and our foreign exchange gains/losses were not significant. We currently believe our exposure to foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations is financially immaterial and therefore have not entered into foreign currency hedging transactions. We continue to review this issue and may consider hedging certain foreign exchange risks through the use of currency futures or options in the future.

Interest Rate Risk

At December 31, 2014, we had cash, cash equivalents and investments totaling \$38.2 million. These amounts were invested primarily in money market accounts, municipal bonds and government agency bonds. The cash, cash equivalents and investments were held for working capital purposes. We do not enter into investments for trading or speculative purposes. Due to the short-term nature of these investments, we believe that we do not have any material exposure to changes in the fair value of our investment portfolio as a result of changes in interest rates. Declines in interest rates, however, would reduce future investment income.

Our exposure to market risk also relates to the amount of interest expense we must pay under our revolving credit facility. The advances under this credit facility bear a variable rate of interest determined as a function of the lender's prime rate or LIBOR. At December 31, 2014, there were no amounts outstanding under our revolving credit facility.

**Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data
Index to Consolidated Financial Statements**

	Page
<u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	51
<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2014 and 2013</u>	52
<u>Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss) for the Years Ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012</u>	53
<u>Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity for the Years Ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012</u>	54
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Years Ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012</u>	55
<u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	56

Table of Contents

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Board of Directors and Stockholders

TechTarget, Inc.

Newton, Massachusetts

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of TechTarget, Inc. as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 and the related consolidated statements of comprehensive income (loss), stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2014. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of TechTarget, Inc. at December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2014, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), TechTarget, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) and our report dated March 13, 2015 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ BDO USA, LLP

Boston, Massachusetts

March 13, 2015

Table of Contents**TechTarget, Inc.****Consolidated Balance Sheets****(in thousands, except share and per share data)**

	December 31,	
	2014	2013
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 19,275	\$ 15,412
Short-term investments	5,480	14,401
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$1,014 and \$913 as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively	23,200	22,116
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	2,842	5,516
Deferred tax assets	2,674	555
Total current assets	53,471	58,000
Property and equipment, net	9,215	9,457
Long-term investments	13,428	3,959
Goodwill	93,979	94,171
Intangible assets, net of accumulated amortization	2,995	4,958
Deferred tax assets	3,230	5,873
Other assets	1,166	564
Total assets	\$ 177,484	\$ 176,982
Liabilities and Stockholders Equity		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 2,733	\$ 2,686
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	2,719	3,300
Accrued compensation expenses	3,043	1,175
Income taxes payable	1,088	
Deferred revenue	6,940	7,097
Total current liabilities	16,523	14,258
Long-term liabilities:		
Deferred rent	2,598	2,980
Deferred tax liabilities	473	745
Contingent consideration	1,114	928
Other liabilities	930	1,009
Total liabilities	21,638	19,920
Commitments and contingencies (Note 9)		
Stockholders equity:		
Preferred stock, 5,000,000 shares authorized; no shares issued or outstanding		

Edgar Filing: TechTarget Inc - Form 10-K

Common stock, \$0.001 par value per share, 100,000,000 shares authorized; 49,587,137 shares issued and 32,371,251 shares outstanding at December 31, 2014; 47,648,102 shares issued and 31,983,440 shares outstanding at December 31, 2013	50	48
Treasury stock, 17,215,886 and 15,664,662 shares at December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively, at cost	(98,851)	(83,862)
Additional paid-in capital	280,702	270,726
Accumulated other comprehensive (loss) income	(87)	199
Accumulated deficit	(25,968)	(30,049)
Total stockholders' equity	155,846	157,062
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 177,484	\$ 176,982

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Table of Contents**TechTarget, Inc.****Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss)****(in thousands, except per share data)**

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Revenues:			
Online	\$ 97,607	\$ 79,709	\$ 88,192
Events	8,596	8,787	11,799
Total revenues	106,203	88,496	99,991
Cost of revenues:			
Online(1)	24,629	23,362	23,513
Events(1)	3,418	3,771	4,301
Total cost of revenues	28,047	27,133	27,814
Gross profit	78,156	61,363	72,177
Operating expenses:			
Selling and marketing(1)	42,836	36,920	36,718
Product development(1)	7,161	6,715	7,521
General and administrative(1)	14,878	13,916	13,112
Depreciation	4,060	3,823	3,279
Amortization of intangible assets	1,762	2,223	3,351
Total operating expenses	70,697	63,597	63,981
Operating income (loss)	7,459	(2,234)	8,196
Interest and other (expense) income, net	(333)	(260)	13
Income (loss) before provision for (benefit from) income taxes	7,126	(2,494)	8,209
Provision for (benefit from) income taxes	3,045	(657)	4,185
Net income (loss)	\$ 4,081	\$ (1,837)	\$ 4,024
Net income (loss) per common share:			
Basic	\$ 0.12	\$ (0.05)	\$ 0.10
Diluted	\$ 0.12	\$ (0.05)	\$ 0.10
Weighted average common shares outstanding:			
Basic	33,010	37,886	40,211

Diluted	34,641	37,886	40,910
Other comprehensive (loss) income, net of tax:			
Unrealized (loss) gain on investments (net of tax (benefit) provision			
of \$(17), \$(2) and \$1, respectively)	\$ (30)	\$ (4)	\$ 2
Unrealized (loss) gain on foreign currency exchange	(256)	339	112
Other comprehensive (loss) income	(286)	335	114
Comprehensive income (loss)	\$ 3,795	\$ (1,502)	\$ 4,138

(1) Amounts include stock-based compensation expense as follows:

Cost of online revenue	\$ 116	\$ 173	\$ 202
Cost of events revenue	8	18	18
Selling and marketing	3,287	2,751	2,888
Product development	129	212	265
General and administrative	3,792	2,431	1,894

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Table of Contents

TechTarget, Inc.

Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity

(in thousands, except share and per share data)

	Common Stock		Treasury Stock		Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)			Total Stockholders' Equity
	Number of Shares	\$0.001 Par Value	Number of Shares	Cost	Paid-In Capital	Accumulated Income	Accumulated Deficit	
Balance, December 31, 2011	44,501,390	\$ 45	5,857,878	\$ (35,343)	\$ 257,459	\$ (250)	\$ (32,236)	\$ 189,679
Issuance of common stock from stock options								
Grant of restricted stock awards	959,867	1			765			766
Repurchase of common stock through stock purchase program			95,940	(467)				(467)
Self registration fees					(69)			(69)
Access tax benefit - stock options					4			4
Stock-based compensation expense					5,267			5,267
Realized gain on investments (net of tax provision of \$1)						2		2
Realized gain on foreign currency translation						112		112
Net income							4,024	4,024
Balance, December 31, 2012	45,461,257	\$ 46	5,953,818	\$ (35,810)	\$ 263,426	\$ (136)	\$ (28,212)	\$ 199,313
Issuance of common stock from stock options								
Grant of restricted stock awards	2,186,845	2			1,558			1,560
Repurchase of common stock through stock purchase program			2,610,279	(12,409)				(12,409)
Repurchase of common stock through tender offer (including \$140 in related costs)			7,100,565	(35,643)				(35,643)
Access tax benefit - stock options					157			157
Stock-based compensation expense					5,585			5,585
Realized loss on investments (net of tax benefit of \$2)						(4)		(4)
Realized gain on foreign currency translation						339		339
Net loss							(1,837)	(1,837)
Balance, December 31, 2013	47,648,102	\$ 48	15,664,662	\$ (83,862)	\$ 270,726	\$ 199	\$ (30,049)	\$ 157,062

issuance of common stock from stock options									
of restricted stock awards	1,939,035	2			4,802				4,804
purchase of common stock through stock									
repurchase program		1,551,224	(14,989)						(14,989)
self registration fees					(62)				(62)
excess tax benefit stock options					(712)				(712)
stock-based compensation expense					5,948				5,948
realized loss on investments (net of tax									
benefit of \$17)							(30)		(30)
realized loss on foreign currency									
translation							(256)		(256)
income								4,081	4,081
Balance, December 31, 2014	49,587,137	\$ 50	17,215,886	\$ (98,851)	\$ 280,702	\$ (87)	\$ (25,968)	\$ 155,841	\$ 155,841

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Table of Contents**TechTarget, Inc.****Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows****(in thousands)**

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Operating Activities:			
Net income (loss)	\$ 4,081	\$ (1,837)	\$ 4,024
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization	5,822	6,046	6,630
Provision for bad debt	708	564	827
Amortization of investment premiums	291	466	927
Stock-based compensation	7,332	5,585	5,267
Deferred tax (benefit) provision	(104)	1,554	231
Excess tax benefit stock options	(712)	(506)	(422)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities, net of businesses acquired:			
Accounts receivable	(1,845)	1,496	1,860
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	(912)	(524)	384
Other assets	(594)	(314)	(54)
Accounts payable	56	(239)	(144)
Income taxes payable	4,689	(5,004)	321
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	(576)	412	(1,421)
Accrued compensation expenses	479	(17)	57
Deferred revenue	(157)	1,112	374
Other liabilities	(341)	(519)	(225)
Net cash provided by operating activities	18,217	8,275	18,636
Investing activities:			
Purchases of property and equipment, and other capitalized assets	(3,847)	(4,477)	(4,150)
Purchases of investments	(15,101)	(16,433)	(21,373)
Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments	14,215	25,555	29,954
Acquisition of businesses, net of cash acquired			(1,117)
Net cash (used in) provided by investing activities	(4,733)	4,645	3,314
Financing activities:			
Purchase of treasury shares and related costs	(14,989)	(47,912)	(467)
Excess tax benefit stock options	712	506	422
Tender offer fees		(140)	
Shelf registration fees	(62)		(69)
Proceeds from exercise of stock options	4,804	1,560	766

Edgar Filing: TechTarget Inc - Form 10-K

Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	(9,535)	(45,986)	652
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	(86)	69	21
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	3,863	(32,997)	22,623
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	15,412	48,409	25,786
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 19,275	\$ 15,412	\$ 48,409
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:			
Cash paid for interest	\$	\$	\$
Cash paid for taxes, net	\$ 118	\$ 2,834	\$ 3,662
Supplemental disclosure of non-cash investing activities:			
Accrual for contingent consideration and cash to be paid in connection with an acquisition	\$	\$	\$ 1,715

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Table of Contents

TechTarget, Inc.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Years Ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012

(In thousands, except share and per share data, where otherwise noted or instances where expressed in millions)

1. Organization and Operations

TechTarget, Inc. (the Company) is a leading provider of specialized online content and brand advertising that brings together buyers and sellers of corporate information technology (IT) products. The Company sells customized marketing programs that enable IT vendors to reach corporate IT decision makers who are actively researching specific IT purchases. The Company operates a network of over 150 websites, each of which focuses on a specific IT sector, such as storage, security or networking. During the critical stages of the purchase decision process, these content offerings meet IT professionals' needs for expert, peer and IT vendor information, and provide a platform on which IT vendors can launch targeted marketing campaigns which generate measurable, high return on investment (ROI). As IT professionals have become increasingly specialized, they have come to rely on the Company's sector-specific websites for purchasing decision support. The Company's content enables IT professionals to navigate the complex and rapidly changing IT landscape where purchasing decisions can have significant financial and operational consequences. Based upon the logical clustering of users' respective job responsibilities and the marketing focus of the products that the Company's customers are advertising, the Company's key marketing opportunities and audience extensions are currently addressed using nine distinct media groups: Application Architecture and Development; Channel; CIO/IT Strategy; Data Center and Virtualization Technologies; Business Applications and Analytics; Networking; Security; Storage; and TechnologyGuide.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The accompanying consolidated financial statements reflect the application of certain significant accounting policies as described below and elsewhere in these Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Principles of Consolidation

The accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements include the accounts of the Company and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, which are comprised of KnowledgeStorm, Inc., Bitpipe, Inc., TechTarget Securities Corporation (TSC), TechTarget Limited, TechTarget (HK) Limited, TechTarget (Beijing) Information Technology Consulting Co., Ltd., TechTarget (Australia) Pty Ltd., TechTarget (Singapore) Pte Ltd., E-Magine Médias SAS and TechTarget Germany GmbH. KnowledgeStorm, Inc. and Bitpipe, Inc. feature websites that provide in-depth vendor generated content targeted to corporate IT professionals. TechTarget Securities Corporation is a Massachusetts security corporation incorporated in 2004. TechTarget Limited is a subsidiary doing business principally in the United Kingdom. TechTarget (HK) Limited (TTGT HK) is a subsidiary incorporated in Hong Kong in order to facilitate the Company's activities in the Asia-Pacific region. Additionally, through its wholly-owned subsidiaries, TTGT HK and TechTarget (Beijing) Information Technology Consulting Co., Ltd. (TTGT Consulting, incorporated on December 16, 2011), the Company effectively controls a variable interest entity (VIE), Keji Wangtuo Information Technology Co., Ltd., (KWIT), which was incorporated under the laws of the People's Republic of China (PRC) on November 27, 2007. TechTarget (Australia) Pty Ltd. (incorporated on December 15, 2011) and TechTarget (Singapore) Pte Ltd. (incorporated on February 12, 2012) are the entities through which the Company does business in Australia and

Singapore, respectively; E-Magine Médias SAS (LeMagIT) and TechTarget Germany GmbH (incorporated on June 6, 2014), both wholly-owned subsidiaries of TechTarget Limited, are entities through which the Company does business in France and Germany, respectively.

PRC laws and regulations prohibit or restrict foreign ownership of Internet-related services and advertising businesses. To comply with these foreign ownership restrictions, the Company operates its websites and provides online advertising services in the PRC through KWIT. The Company entered into certain exclusive agreements with KWIT and its shareholders through TTGT HK, which obligated TTGT HK to absorb all of the risk of loss from KWIT s activities and entitled TTGT HK to receive all of their residual returns. In addition, the Company entered into certain agreements with the authorized parties through TTGT HK, including Management and Consulting Services, Voting Proxy, Equity Pledge and Option Agreements. On December 31, 2011, TTGT HK assigned all of its rights and obligations to the newly formed wholly foreign-owned enterprise (WFOE), TTGT Consulting. The WFOE is established and existing under the laws of the PRC, and is wholly owned by TTGT HK.

Based on these contractual arrangements, the Company consolidates the financial results of KWIT as required by Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) subtopic 810-10, *Consolidation: Overall*, because the Company holds all the variable interests of KWIT through the WFOE, which is the primary beneficiary of KWIT. Despite the lack of technical majority ownership, there exists a

Table of Contents

parent-subsidary relationship between the Company and the VIE through the aforementioned agreements, whereby the equity holders of KWIT assigned all of their voting rights underlying their equity interest in KWIT to the WFOE. In addition, through the other aforementioned agreements, the Company demonstrates its ability and intention to continue to exercise the ability to obtain substantially all of the profits and absorb all of the expected losses of KWIT. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions between the Company, its subsidiaries, and KWIT have been eliminated in consolidation.

Reclassifications

Beginning in the third quarter of 2014, the Company changed its presentation of transactional gains and losses arising from the impact of currency exchange rate fluctuations on transactions in foreign currency that is different from the local functional currency in order to better reflect the non-operating nature of these gains and losses, and is now including them in Other Income (Expense) on the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss). Previously, these gains and losses were included in the Company's operating expenses as General and Administrative expense. Amounts in the prior periods' financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the current presentation. In the year ended December 31, 2013, this resulted in an increase to Other Expense and a decrease in General and Administrative expense equal to \$0.2 million and for the year ended December 31, 2012, this resulted in a decrease to Other Income and a decrease in General and Administrative expense amounting to \$0.1 million.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. On an ongoing basis, the Company evaluates its estimates, including those related to revenue, long-lived assets, goodwill, the allowance for doubtful accounts, stock-based compensation, earnouts, self-insurance accruals and income taxes. Estimates of the carrying value of certain assets and liabilities are based on historical experience and on various other assumptions that the Company believes to be reasonable. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Revenue Recognition

The Company generates substantially all of its revenue from the sale of targeted advertising campaigns, which are delivered via its network of websites, and events. Revenue is recognized only when the price is fixed or determinable, persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, the service is performed and collectability of the resulting receivable is reasonably assured.

The majority of the Company's online media sales involve multiple product offerings, which are described in more detail below. Because neither vendor-specific objective evidence of fair value nor third party evidence of fair value exists for all elements in the Company's bundled product offerings, the Company uses an estimated selling price which represents management's best estimate of the stand-alone selling price for each deliverable in an arrangement. The Company establishes best estimates considering multiple factors including, but not limited to, class of client, size of transaction, available media inventory, pricing strategies and market conditions. The Company believes the use of the best estimate of selling price allows revenue recognition in a manner consistent with the underlying economics of the transaction. The Company uses the relative selling price method to allocate consideration at the inception of the arrangement to each deliverable in a multiple element arrangement. The relative selling price method allocates any discount in the arrangement proportionately to each deliverable on the basis of the deliverable's best estimated selling price. Revenue is then recognized as delivery occurs.

The Company evaluates all deliverables of an arrangement at inception and each time an item is delivered, to determine whether they represent separate units of accounting. Based on this evaluation, the arrangement consideration is measured and allocated to each of these elements.

Online Offerings

Core Online.

Lead Generation. As part of these lead generation campaign offerings, the Company will guarantee a minimum number of qualified leads to be delivered over the course of the advertising campaign. The Company determines the content necessary to achieve performance guarantees. Scheduled end dates of advertising campaigns sometimes need to be extended, pursuant to the terms of the arrangement, to satisfy lead guarantees. The Company estimates a revenue reserve necessary to adjust revenue recognition for

Table of Contents

extended advertising campaigns. These estimates are based on the Company's experience in managing and fulfilling these offerings. The customer has cancellation privileges which generally require advance notice by the customer and require proportional payment by the customer for the portion of the campaign period provided by the Company. Additionally, the Company offers sales incentives to certain customers, primarily in the form of volume rebates, which are classified as a reduction of revenues and are calculated based on the terms of the specific customer's contract. The Company accrues for these sales incentives based on contractual terms and historical experience.

The Company recognizes revenue on contracts where pricing is based on cost per lead or duration-based in the period during which the leads are delivered to its customers.

Branding. Branding consists mostly of banner revenue, which is recognized in the period in which the banner impressions, engagements or clicks occur.

Custom Content Creation. Custom content revenue is recognized when the creation is completed and delivered to the customer, with the exception of microsites which are recognized over the period during which they are live.

Content Sponsorships. Content sponsorship revenue is recognized ratably over the period in which the related content asset is available on the Company's websites.

List Rentals. List rental revenue is recognized in the period in which the delivery of the list is made to the Company's customer.

Third Party Revenue Sharing Arrangements. Revenue from third party revenue sharing arrangements is recognized on a net basis in the period in which the services are performed. For certain third party agreements where the Company is the primary obligor, revenue is recognized on a gross basis in the period in which the services are performed.

IT Deal Alert. This suite of products includes Qualified Sales Opportunities and Account Watch (rebranded in 2015 as Priority Engine). Qualified Sales Opportunities revenue is recognized when the opportunity is delivered to the Company's customer, and Account Watch revenue is recognized ratably over the duration of the service.

Events

Revenue from vendor-sponsored events, whether sponsored exclusively by a single vendor or in a multi-vendor sponsored event, is recognized upon completion of the event in the period the event occurs. The majority of the Company's events are free to qualified attendees; however, certain events are based on a paid attendee model. The Company recognizes revenue for paid attendee events upon completion of the event.

Amounts collected or billed prior to satisfying the above revenue recognition criteria are recorded as deferred revenue. The Company excludes from its deferred revenue and accounts receivable balances amounts for which it has billed in advance prior to the start of a campaign or the delivery of services.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

Financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, short and long-term investments, accounts receivable, accounts payable and contingent consideration. Due to their short-term nature and liquidity, the carrying value of these instruments, with the exception of contingent consideration, approximates their estimated fair values. See Note 3 for further information on the fair value of the Company's investments. The fair value of contingent consideration was estimated using a discounted cash flow method described in Note 4.

Long-Lived Assets, Goodwill and Indefinite-lived Intangible Assets

Long-lived assets consist primarily of property and equipment, capitalized software, goodwill and other intangible assets. The Company reviews long-lived assets, including property and equipment and finite intangible assets, for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. Conditions that would trigger an impairment assessment include, but are not limited to, a significant adverse change in legal factors or business climate that could affect the value of an asset or an adverse action or a significant decrease in the market price. A specifically identified intangible asset must be recorded as a separate asset from goodwill if either of the following two criteria is met: (1) the intangible asset acquired arises from contractual or other legal rights; or (2) the intangible asset is separable. Accordingly, intangible assets consist of specifically identified intangible assets. Goodwill is the excess of any purchase price over the estimated fair value of net tangible and intangible assets acquired.

Table of Contents

Goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets are not amortized but are reviewed annually for impairment or more frequently if impairment indicators arise. Separable intangible assets that are not deemed to have an indefinite life are amortized over their estimated useful lives, which range from three to ten years, using methods of amortization that are expected to reflect the estimated pattern of economic use, and are reviewed for impairment when events or changes in circumstances suggest that the assets may not be recoverable. Consistent with the Company's determination that it has only one reporting segment, it has been determined that there is only one reporting unit and goodwill is tested for impairment at the entity level. The Company performs its annual test of impairment of goodwill as of December 31st of each year and whenever events or changes in circumstances suggest that the carrying amount may not be recoverable using the two step process required by ASC 350, *Intangibles - Goodwill and Other* (ASC 350). The first step of the impairment test is to identify potential impairment by comparing the reporting unit's fair value with its net book value (or carrying amount), including goodwill. The fair value is estimated based on a market value approach. If the fair value of the reporting unit exceeds its carrying amount, the reporting unit's goodwill is not considered to be impaired and the second step of the impairment test is not performed. Whenever indicators of impairment become present, the Company would perform the second step and compare the implied fair value of the reporting unit's goodwill, as defined by ASC 350, to its carrying value to determine the amount of the impairment loss, if any. As of December 31, 2014, there were no indications of impairment based on the step one analysis, and the Company's estimated fair value exceeded its goodwill carrying value by a significant margin.

Based on the aforementioned evaluation, the Company believes that, as of the balance sheet date presented, none of the Company's goodwill or other long-lived assets were impaired. The Company did not have any intangible assets with indefinite lives as of December 31, 2014 or 2013.

Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

The Company offsets gross trade accounts receivable with an allowance for doubtful accounts. The allowance for doubtful accounts is the Company's best estimate of the amount of probable credit losses in its existing accounts receivable. The allowance for doubtful accounts is reviewed on a regular basis, and all past due balances are reviewed individually for collectability. Account balances are charged against the allowance after all means of collection have been exhausted and the potential for recovery is considered remote. Provisions for doubtful accounts are recorded in general and administrative expense.

Below is a summary of the changes in the Company's allowance for doubtful accounts for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012.

	Balance at Beginning of Year	Provision	Acquired in Business Combinations	Write-offs, Net of Recoveries	Balance at End of Year
Year ended December 31, 2012	\$ 1,062	\$ 827		\$ (978)	\$ 911
Year ended December 31, 2013	\$ 911	\$ 564		\$ (562)	\$ 913
Year ended December 31, 2014	\$ 913	\$ 708		\$ (607)	\$ 1,014

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment is stated at cost. Property and equipment acquired through acquisitions of businesses are initially recorded at fair value. Depreciation is calculated on the straight-line method based on the month the asset is placed in service over the following estimated useful lives:

	Estimated Useful Life
Furniture and fixtures	5 years
Computer equipment and software	2 3 years
Internal-use software and website development costs	3 4 years
Leasehold improvements	Shorter of useful life or remaining duration of lease

Table of Contents

Property and equipment consists of the following:

	As of December 31,	
	2014	2013
Furniture and fixtures	\$ 831	\$ 848
Computer equipment and software	4,567	4,026
Leasehold improvements	1,508	1,294
Internal-use software and website development costs	18,034	15,028
	24,940	21,196
Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization	(15,725)	(11,739)
	\$ 9,215	\$ 9,457

Depreciation expense was \$4.1 million, \$3.8 million and \$3.3 million for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. Repairs and maintenance charges that do not increase the useful life of the assets are charged to operations as incurred. The Company wrote off approximately \$0.1 million, \$2.7 million and \$0.8 million of fully depreciated assets that were no longer in service during 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Depreciation expense is classified as a component of operating expense in the Company's results of operations.

Internal-Use Software and Website Development Costs

The Company capitalizes costs incurred during the development of its website applications and infrastructure as well as certain costs relating to internal-use software. The estimated useful life of costs capitalized is evaluated for each specific project. Capitalized internal-use software and website development costs are reviewed for recoverability whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of the asset may not be recoverable. An impairment loss would be recognized only if the carrying amount of the asset is not recoverable and exceeds its fair value. The Company capitalized internal-use software and website development costs of \$3.0 million, \$3.6 million and \$3.0 million for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Concentrations of Credit Risk and Off-Balance Sheet Risk

Financial instruments that potentially expose the Company to concentrations of credit risk consist mainly of cash and cash equivalents, investments and accounts receivable. The Company maintains its cash and cash equivalents and investments principally in accredited financial institutions of high credit standing. The Company routinely assesses the credit worthiness of its customers. The Company generally has not experienced any significant losses related to individual customers or groups of customers in any particular industry or area. The Company does not require collateral. Due to these factors, no additional credit risk beyond amounts provided for collection losses is believed by management to be probable in the Company's accounts receivable.

No single customer represented 10% or more of total accounts receivable at December 31, 2014 or 2013. No single customer accounted for 10% or more of total revenue in the years ended December 31, 2014 or 2013. One customer accounted for 12% of total revenue for the year ended December 31, 2012.

Income Taxes

The Company's deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized based on temporary differences between the financial reporting and income tax bases of assets and liabilities using statutory rates. A valuation allowance is established against net deferred tax assets if, based upon the weight of available evidence, it is more likely than not that some or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. The Company records a liability for unrecognized tax benefits resulting from uncertain tax positions taken or expected to be taken in a tax return using a more likely than not threshold as required by the provisions of ASC 740-10, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes*.

The Company recognizes any interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits in income tax expense.

Stock-Based Compensation

The Company has two stock-based employee compensation plans which are more fully described in Note 10. Stock-based compensation cost is measured at the grant date based on the fair value of the award and is recognized in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income (Loss) using the straight-line method over the vesting period of the award or using the accelerated method if the award is contingent upon performance goals. The Company uses the Black-Scholes option-pricing model to determine the fair value of stock option awards.

Table of Contents**Comprehensive Income (Loss)**

Comprehensive income (loss) includes all changes in equity during a period, except those resulting from investments by stockholders and distributions to stockholders. The Company's comprehensive income (loss) includes changes in the fair value of the Company's unrealized gains (losses) on available for sale securities and foreign currency translation.

There were no material reclassifications out of accumulated other comprehensive income in the periods ended December 31, 2014, 2013 or 2012.

Foreign Currency

The functional currency for each of the Company's subsidiaries is each country's local currency. All assets and liabilities are translated into U.S. dollar equivalents at the exchange rate in effect on the balance sheet date or at a historical rate. Revenues and expenses are translated at average exchange rates. Translation gains or losses are recorded in stockholders' equity as an element of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss).

Net Income (Loss) Per Share

Basic earnings per share is computed based on the weighted average number of common shares and vested restricted stock awards outstanding during the period. Because the holders of unvested restricted stock awards do not have nonforfeitable rights to dividends or dividend equivalents, the Company does not consider these awards to be participating securities that should be included in its computation of earnings per share under the two-class method. Diluted earnings per share is computed using the weighted average number of common shares and vested restricted stock awards outstanding during the period, plus the dilutive effect of potential future issuances of common stock relating to stock option programs and other potentially dilutive securities using the treasury stock method. In calculating diluted earnings per share, the dilutive effect of stock options and restricted stock awards is computed using the average market price for the respective period. In addition, the assumed proceeds under the treasury stock method include the average unrecognized compensation expense and assumed tax benefit of stock options and restricted stock awards that are in-the-money. This results in the assumed buyback of additional shares, thereby reducing the dilutive impact of stock options and restricted stock awards.

A reconciliation of the numerator and denominator used in the calculation of basic and diluted net income (loss) per share is as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Numerator:			
Net income (loss)	\$ 4,081	\$ (1,837)	\$ 4,024
Denominator:			
Basic:			
Weighted average shares of common stock and vested restricted stock awards outstanding	33,010,162	37,886,492	40,211,075
Diluted:			

Weighted average shares of common stock and vested restricted stock awards outstanding	33,010,162	37,886,492	40,211,075
Effect of potentially dilutive shares	1,630,349		698,668
Total weighted average shares of common stock and vested restricted stock awards outstanding	34,640,511	37,886,492	40,909,743

Calculation of Net Income (Loss) Per Common Share:**Basic:**

Net income (loss) applicable to common stockholders	\$ 4,081	\$ (1,837)	\$ 4,024
---	----------	------------	----------

Weighted average shares of stock outstanding	33,010,162	37,886,492	40,211,075
--	------------	------------	------------

Net income (loss) per common share	\$ 0.12	\$ (0.05)	\$ 0.10
------------------------------------	---------	-----------	---------

Diluted:

Net income (loss) applicable to common stockholders	\$ 4,081	\$ (1,837)	\$ 4,024
---	----------	------------	----------

Weighted average shares of stock outstanding	34,640,511	37,886,492	40,909,743
--	------------	------------	------------

Net income (loss) per common share(1)	\$ 0.12	\$ (0.05)	\$ 0.10
---------------------------------------	---------	-----------	---------

- (1) In calculating diluted earnings per share, 1.0 million, 5.3 million and 4.2 million shares related to outstanding stock options and unvested restricted stock awards were excluded for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively, because they were anti-dilutive. Additionally, shares used to calculate diluted earnings per share exclude 0.5 million shares related to outstanding stock options and unvested restricted stock awards for the year ended December 31, 2013 that would have been dilutive if the Company had net income during that period.

Table of Contents***Recent Accounting Pronouncements***

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (Topic 606) (ASU 2014-09), which supersedes the revenue recognition requirements in ASC 605, Revenue Recognition. ASU 2014-09 is based on the principle that revenue is recognized to depict the transfer of goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. ASU 2014-09 also requires additional disclosure about the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from customer contracts, including significant judgments and changes in judgments and assets recognized from costs incurred to obtain or fulfill a contract. This new guidance is effective for annual reporting periods (including interim reporting periods within those periods) beginning after December 15, 2016 (January 1, 2017 for the Company); early adoption is not permitted. Entities have the option of using either a full retrospective or a modified approach to adopt the guidance. The Company is in the process of determining the potential effects on the consolidated financial statements.

3. Fair Value Measurements

The Company measures certain financial assets and liabilities at fair value on a recurring basis, including cash equivalents, short-term and long-term investments and contingent consideration. The fair value of these financial assets and liabilities was determined based on three levels of input as follows:

Level 1. Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities;

Level 2. Observable inputs other than quoted prices in active markets; and

Level 3. Unobservable inputs.

The fair value hierarchy of the Company's financial assets and liabilities carried at fair value and measured on a recurring basis is as follows:

	Fair Value Measurements at Reporting Date Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
December 31, 2014			
Assets:			
Money market funds(1)	\$ 1,071	\$ 1,071	\$
Short-term investments(2)	5,480	5,480	
Long-term investments(2)	13,428	13,428	

Edgar Filing: TechTarget Inc - Form 10-K

Total assets	\$	19,979	\$ 1,071	\$ 18,908	\$
Liabilities:					
Contingent consideration non-current(3)		1,114			1,114
Total liabilities	\$	1,114	\$	\$	\$ 1,114

Table of Contents

	Fair Value Measurements at Reporting Date Using			
	December 31, 2013	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Assets:				
Money market funds(1)	\$ 1,607	\$ 1,607	\$	\$
Short-term investments(2)	14,401		14,401	
Long-term investments(2)	3,959		3,959	
Total assets	\$ 19,967	\$ 1,607	\$ 18,360	\$
Liabilities:				
Contingent consideration current(3)	\$ 568	\$	\$	\$ 568
Contingent consideration non-current(3)	928			928
Total liabilities	\$ 1,496	\$	\$	\$ 1,496

- (1) Included in cash and cash equivalents on the accompanying consolidated balance sheets; valued at quoted market prices in active markets.
- (2) Short and long-term investments consist of municipal bonds and government agency bonds; their fair value is calculated using an interest rate yield curve for similar instruments.
- (3) Our valuation techniques and Level 3 inputs used to estimate the fair value of contingent consideration payable in connection with the LeMag acquisition are described in Note 4. During the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 the contingent consideration increased by approximately \$320 and \$288, respectively, when it was remeasured to fair value. Payments in the amount of \$545 were made in 2014; the remainder of the change in this balance was caused by amortization of a discount on the installment payments and foreign currency fluctuations. The final payment is expected to be made after December 31, 2015.

The following table provides a roll-forward of the fair value of the contingent consideration categorized as Level 3 for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2013 and 2014:

	Fair Value
Balance as of December 31, 2011	\$ 1,405
Payments on contingent liabilities	(1,405)
Contingent liabilities added from LeMag acquisition	1,180
Balance as of December 31, 2012	\$ 1,180

Currency translation impact on contingent liabilities	28
Remeasurement of contingent liabilities	288
Balance as of December 31, 2013	\$ 1,496
Currency translation impact on contingent liabilities	(204)
Payments on contingent liabilities	(545)
Amortization of discount on contingent liabilities	47
Remeasurement of contingent liabilities	320
Balance as of December 31, 2014	\$ 1,114

4. Acquisitions

LeMagIT

On December 17, 2012 the Company purchased all of the outstanding shares of its French partner, E-Magine Médias SAS, for approximately \$2.2 million in cash plus a potential future earnout valued at \$0.7 million at the time of the acquisition. Approximately \$1.2 million of the cash payment was made at closing, with the remainder due in two equal installments in fiscal years 2013 and 2014. The third installment was subject to certain revenue growth targets and the payment was adjusted based on actual results. If all targets are met, the total purchase price, including the earnout, shall not exceed \$5.2 million, depending on exchange rates at the time of calculation. The installment payments have been recorded at present value using a discount rate of 10%; the discount was amortized to interest through the payment dates. The second and third installments were paid in 2013 and 2014, respectively. At December 31, 2014, the earnout is included in non-current liabilities in the Company's consolidated balance sheet.

Table of Contents**5. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments**

Cash and cash equivalents consist of highly liquid investments with maturities of three months or less at date of purchase. Cash equivalents are carried at cost, which approximates their fair market value. Cash and cash equivalents consisted of the following:

	As of December 31,	
	2014	2013
Cash	\$ 18,204	\$ 13,805
Money market funds	1,071	1,607
Total cash and cash equivalents	\$ 19,275	\$ 15,412

The Company's short and long-term investments are accounted for as available for sale securities. These investments are recorded at fair value with the related unrealized gains and losses included in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), a component of stockholders' equity, net of tax. The unrealized (loss) gain, net of taxes, was \$(20), \$10 and \$14 as of December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. Realized gains and losses on the sale of these investments are determined using the specific identification method. There were no material realized gains or losses in 2014, 2013 or 2012.

Short and long-term investments consisted of the following:

	December 31, 2014			Estimated Fair Value
Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses		
Short and long-term investments:				
Government agency bonds	\$ 6,632	\$	\$ (14)	\$ 6,618
Municipal bonds	12,307	4	(21)	12,290
Total short and long-term investments	\$ 18,939	\$ 4	\$ (35)	\$ 18,908

	December 31, 2013			Estimated Fair Value
Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses		
Short and long-term investments:				
Government agency bonds	\$ 2,511	\$ 4	\$	\$ 2,515
Municipal bonds	15,833	13	(1)	15,845
Total short and long-term investments	\$ 18,344	\$ 17	\$ (1)	\$ 18,360

The Company had ten debt securities in an unrealized loss position at December 31, 2014. All of these securities have been in such a position for no more than seven months. The unrealized loss on those securities was approximately \$35 and the fair value was \$13.4 million. The Company uses specific identification when reviewing these investments for impairment. Because the Company does not intend to sell the investments that are in an unrealized loss position and it is not likely that the Company will be required to sell any investments before recovery of their cost basis, the Company does not consider those investments with an unrealized loss to be other-than-temporarily impaired at December 31, 2014.

Municipal and government agency bonds have contractual maturity dates that range from February 2015 to February 2018. All income generated from these investments is recorded as interest income.

6. Goodwill

The changes in the carrying amount of goodwill for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 are as follows:

	As of December 31,	
	2014	2013
Balance as of beginning of year	\$ 94,171	\$ 93,792
Goodwill adjustment during the year		80
Effect of exchange rate changes	(192)	299
Balance as of end of year	\$ 93,979	\$ 94,171

Table of Contents**7. Intangible Assets**

The following table summarizes the Company's intangible assets, net:

	Estimated Useful Lives (Years)	As of December 31, 2014		
		Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net
Customer, affiliate and advertiser relationships	5-9	\$ 7,079	\$ (5,480)	\$ 1,599
Developed websites, technology and patents	10	1,361	(499)	862
Trademark, trade name and domain name	5-8	1,859	(1,598)	261
Proprietary user information database and internet traffic	3-5	1,270	(1,024)	246
Non-compete agreements	3	85	(58)	27
Total intangible assets		\$ 11,654	\$ (8,659)	\$ 2,995

	Estimated Useful Lives (Years)	As of December 31, 2013		
		Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net
Customer, affiliate and advertiser relationships	5-9	\$ 7,146	\$ (4,563)	\$ 2,583
Developed websites, technology and patents	6-10	6,942	(5,721)	1,221
Trademark, trade name and domain name	5-8	2,044	(1,482)	562
Proprietary user information database and internet traffic	3-5	1,318	(789)	529
Non-compete agreements	2-3	450	(387)	63
Total intangible assets		\$ 17,900	\$ (12,942)	\$ 4,958

Intangible assets are amortized over their estimated useful lives, which range from three to ten years, using methods of amortization that are expected to reflect the estimated pattern of economic use. The remaining amortization expense will be recognized over a weighted-average period of approximately 2.3 years. Amortization expense was \$1.8 million, \$2.2 million and \$3.4 million for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. Amortization expense is recorded within operating expenses as the intangible assets consist of customer-related assets and website traffic that the Company considers to be in support of selling and marketing activities. The Company wrote off \$5.9 million of fully amortized intangible assets in 2014; the Company did not write off any amortized intangible assets in 2013.

The Company expects amortization expense of intangible assets to be as follows:

Years Ending December 31:

	Amortization Expense
2015	\$ 1,420
2016	880
2017	181
2018	113
2019	95
Thereafter	306
	\$ 2,995

8. Bank Term Loan Payable

As of December 31, 2014, the Company has a \$5.0 million revolving credit facility. Unless earlier payment is required by an event of default, all principal and unpaid interest will be due and payable on August 31, 2016. At the Company's option, the Revolving Credit Facility (the Credit Agreement) bears interest at either the prime rate less 1.00% or the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) plus the applicable LIBOR margin. The applicable LIBOR margin is based on the ratio of total funded debt to earnings before interest, other income and expense, income taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) for the preceding four fiscal quarters. As of December 31, 2014, the applicable LIBOR margin was 1.25%.

The Company is also required to pay an unused line fee on the daily unused amount of the Credit Agreement at a per annum rate based on the ratio of total funded debt to EBITDA for the preceding four fiscal quarters. As of December 31, 2014, the per annum unused line fee rate was 0.20%.

Table of Contents

At December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 there were no amounts outstanding under the Credit Agreement. A standby letter of credit related to the Company's corporate headquarters lease that had previously been outstanding against the Credit Agreement was canceled in October 2014, bringing the Company's available borrowings on the facility to \$5.0 million at December 31, 2014.

Borrowings under the Credit Agreement are collateralized by a security interest in substantially all assets of the Company. Covenants governing the Credit Agreement include the maintenance of certain financial ratios. At December 31, 2014, the Company was in compliance with all covenants under the Credit Agreement.

9. Commitments and Contingencies***Operating Leases***

The Company conducts its operations in leased office facilities under various noncancelable operating lease agreements that expire through March 2020. The Company is receiving certain rent concessions over the life of certain of the leases. In November 2010, the Newton lease was amended to include an additional 8,400 square feet of office space. The amended lease commenced in March 2011 and runs concurrently with the term of the original lease. The Company is receiving certain rent concessions over the life of the amended lease.

Certain of the Company's operating leases include lease incentives and escalating payment amounts and are renewable for varying periods. The Company is recognizing the related rent expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease taking into account the lease incentives and escalating lease payments. Total rent expense under the Company's leases was approximately \$4.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 and \$4.0 million for each of the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012.

Future minimum lease payments under the Company's noncancelable operating leases at December 31, 2014 are as follows:

Years Ending December 31:	Minimum Lease Payments
2015	\$ 4,091
2016	4,079
2017	3,712
2018	3,832
2019	3,833
Thereafter	572
	\$ 20,119

In the third quarter of 2014, the Company paid \$0.7 million in cash as a security deposit on its corporate headquarters lease. An irrevocable standby letter of credit that had been outstanding in the aggregate amount of \$1.0 million supporting the Company's operating lease was canceled in October 2014.

Net Worth Tax Contingency

In late March 2010, the Company received a letter from the Department of Revenue of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (the MA DOR) requesting documentation demonstrating that TSC has been classified by the MA DOR as a Massachusetts security corporation. Following subsequent correspondence with the MA DOR and a settlement conference on March 22, 2011, the Company received a Notice of Assessment from the MA DOR with respect to additional excise taxes on net worth related to TSC. Based on the Company's previous assessment that it was probable that the MA DOR would require an adjustment to correct TSC's tax filings such that it will be treated as a Massachusetts business corporation for the applicable years, the Company has recorded a liability representing its best estimate at that time of the potential net worth tax exposure. The tax benefits available to a Massachusetts security corporation are comprised of (i) a different rate structure (1.32% on gross investment income vs. 9.5% on net income) (See Note 12) and (ii) exemption from the 0.26% excise tax on net worth. On August 17, 2011, the Company filed Applications for Abatement with the MA DOR. On January 6, 2012, the Company filed Petitions for Formal Procedure with the Massachusetts Appellate Tax Board. A trial took place on April 29, 2014; as of the date of this report no decision has been rendered. As of December 31, 2014 the Company has recorded a liability of approximately \$672 to account for the tax differential in all open years, including penalties and interest.

Table of Contents***Litigation***

From time to time and in the ordinary course of business, the Company may be subject to various claims, charges, and litigation. At December 31, 2014 and 2013, the Company did not have any pending claims, charges, or litigation that it expects would have a material adverse effect on its consolidated financial position, results of operations, or cash flows.

10. Stock-Based Compensation***Stock Option Plans***

In September 1999, the Company approved a stock option plan (the 1999 Plan) that provides for the issuance of up to 12,384,646 shares of common stock incentives. The 1999 Plan provides for the granting of incentive stock options (ISOs), nonqualified stock options (NSOs), and stock grants. These incentives may be offered to the Company's employees, officers, directors, consultants, and advisors. ISOs may not be granted at less than fair market value on the date of grant, as determined by the Company's Board of Directors (the Board). Each option shall be exercisable at such times and subject to such terms as determined by the Board; grants generally vest over a four year period, and expire no later than ten years after the grant date.

In April 2007, the Board approved the 2007 Stock Option and Incentive Plan (the 2007 Plan), which was approved by the stockholders of the Company and became effective upon the consummation of the Company's IPO in May 2007. Effective upon the consummation of the IPO, no further awards were made pursuant to the 1999 Plan, but any outstanding awards under the 1999 Plan remain in effect and continue to be subject to the terms of the 1999 Plan. The 2007 Plan allows the Company to grant ISOs, NSOs, stock appreciation rights, deferred stock awards, restricted stock and other awards. Under the 2007 Plan, stock options may not be granted at less than fair market value on the date of grant, and grants generally vest over a four year period. Stock options granted under the 2007 Plan expire no later than ten years after the grant date. The Company has reserved for issuance an aggregate of 2,911,667 shares of common stock under the 2007 Plan plus an additional annual increase to be added automatically on January 1 of each year, beginning on January 1, 2008, equal to the lesser of (a) 2% of the outstanding number of shares of common stock (on a fully-diluted basis) on the immediately preceding December 31 and (b) such lower number of shares as may be determined by the compensation committee of the Board of Directors of the Company. The number of shares available for issuance under the 2007 Plan is subject to adjustment in the event of a stock split, stock dividend or other change in capitalization. Generally, shares that are forfeited or canceled from awards under the 2007 Plan also will be available for future awards. To date, approximately 6.7 million shares have been added to the 2007 Plan in accordance with the automatic annual increase. In addition, shares subject to stock options returned to the 1999 Plan, as a result of their expiration, cancellation or termination, are automatically made available for issuance under the 2007 Plan. As of December 31, 2014, a total of 1,731,936 shares were available for grant under the 2007 Plan.

Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation

The Company uses the Black-Scholes option pricing model to calculate the grant-date fair value of an award. The Company calculated the fair values of the options granted using the following estimated weighted-average assumptions:

Years Ended December 31,		
2014	2013	2012

Edgar Filing: TechTarget Inc - Form 10-K

Expected volatility	78%	67%	88%
Expected term	6 years	5 years	5 years
Risk-free interest rate	1.62%	0.58%	0.36%
Expected dividend yield	%	%	%
Weighted-average grant date fair value per share	\$ 7.22	\$ 3.89	\$ 3.63

Beginning in 2013, the expected volatility of options granted has been determined using a weighted average of the historical volatility of the Company's stock for a period equal to the expected life of the option; a combined historical volatility of the Company's stock and the peer group of companies was used prior to 2013. The risk-free interest rate is based on a zero coupon United States treasury instrument whose term is consistent with the expected life of the stock options. The Company has not paid and does not anticipate paying cash dividends on its shares of common stock; therefore, the expected dividend yield is assumed to be zero. The Company applied an estimated annual forfeiture rate in determining the expense recorded each year.

Table of Contents

A summary of the stock option activity under the Company's stock option plans for the year ended December 31, 2014 is presented below:

	Options Outstanding	Weighted-Average Exercise Price Per Share	Contractual Term in Years	Weighted-Average Remaining Aggregate Intrinsic Value
Options outstanding at December 31, 2013	4,467,248	\$ 7.30		
Granted	10,000	10.53		
Exercised	(970,382)	5.60		
Forfeited	(132,609)	6.85		
Canceled	(26,600)	8.23		
Options outstanding at December 31, 2014	3,347,657	\$ 7.86	2.6	\$ 12,898
Options exercisable at December 31, 2014	3,343,282	\$ 7.86	2.6	\$ 12,877
Options vested or expected to vest at December 31, 2014(1)	3,347,178	\$ 7.86	2.6	\$ 11,742

(1) In addition to the vested options, the Company expects a portion of the unvested options to vest at some point in the future. Options expected to vest is calculated by applying an estimated forfeiture rate to the unvested options. During the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, the total intrinsic value of options exercised (i.e. the difference between the market price of the underlying stock at exercise and the price paid by the employee to exercise the options) was \$4.2 million, \$1.4 million and \$0.2 million, respectively, and the total amount of cash received by the Company from exercise of these options was \$4.8 million, \$1.6 million and \$0.8 million, respectively.

Restricted Stock Awards

Restricted stock awards are valued at the market price of a share of the Company's common stock on the date of the grant. A summary of the restricted stock award activity under the 2007 Plan for the year ended December 31, 2014 is presented below:

	Shares	Weighted-Average Grant Date Fair Value Per Share	Aggregate Intrinsic Value
Nonvested outstanding at December 31, 2013	2,777,500	\$ 5.26	
Granted	576,570	8.05	
Vested	(1,027,403)	5.54	

Forfeited	(47,500)		6.02	
Nonvested outstanding at December 31, 2014	2,279,167	\$	5.83	\$ 25,914

The total grant-date fair value of restricted stock awards that vested during the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 was \$5.7 million, \$5.0 million and \$4.2 million, respectively. As of December 31, 2014, there was \$11.0 million of total unrecognized compensation expense related to stock options and restricted stock awards which is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 2.1 years.

Accrued Stock-Based Compensation

The Company had approximately \$1.4 million included in accrued compensation expenses on its Consolidated Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2014 for stock-based compensation related to restricted stock awards that had been approved as of that date but had not been delivered. This non-cash compensation expense is recorded as part of stock compensation expense in the Company's Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income (Loss). There were no such accruals as of December 31, 2013 or 2012.

11. Stockholders Equity

Reserved Common Stock

As of December 31, 2014, the Company has reserved 7,832,511 shares of common stock for options outstanding and restricted stock awards that have not been issued as well as those available for grant under stock option plans.

Table of Contents***Common Stock Repurchase Programs***

On August 5, 2014, the Company announced that, on August 4, 2014, its Board of Directors authorized a \$20 million stock repurchase program (the 2014 Program). The Company is authorized to repurchase the Company's common stock from time to time on the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. The timing and amount of any shares repurchased will be determined based on an evaluation of market conditions and other factors. The Company may elect to implement a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan to make such purchases, which would permit shares to be repurchased when the Company might otherwise be precluded from doing so under insider trading laws. The 2014 Program may be suspended or discontinued at any time.

On August 3, 2012, the Company's Board of Directors authorized a \$20 million stock repurchase program (the 2012 Program) authorizing the Company to repurchase its common stock from time to time on the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. The timing and amount of any shares repurchased was determined based on an evaluation of market conditions and other factors. The Company elected to implement a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan to make such purchases. The 2012 Program was terminated immediately prior to the commencement of the tender offer on September 25, 2013 (as described below).

During the year ended December 31, 2014 the Company repurchased 1,551,224 shares of common stock for \$15.0 million pursuant to the 2014 Program. During the year ended December 31, 2013 the Company repurchased 2,610,279 shares of common stock for \$12.4 million pursuant to the 2012 Program. Repurchased shares are recorded under the cost method and are reflected as treasury stock in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets. All repurchased shares were funded with cash on hand.

Share Repurchase

On December 9, 2014, the Company entered into a Purchase Agreement with TCV V, L.P. (TCV V) and TCV Member Fund, L.P. (TCV Member Fund) and collectively with TCV V, TCV), both related parties, pursuant to which the Company agreed to repurchase from TCV 1,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock, \$0.001 par value per share (the Common Stock) for an aggregate price of \$9,797,000. The purchase price per share of Common Stock was equal to 97% of the closing price of the Common Stock on the Nasdaq Global Market on December 8, 2014. The repurchase closed on December 10, 2014, and these shares are included in the 1,551,224 shares of common stock purchased under the 2014 plan noted above. A member of the Company's board of directors is also a member of the general partner of TCV, which holds more than 5% of the voting securities of the Company.

Secondary Offering

In May 2014, the Company completed a secondary public offering of 5,750,000 shares of common stock at a price of \$6.25 per share. All of the shares sold in the secondary public offering were sold by selling stockholders and the Company did not receive any proceeds from the offering. The Company incurred fees of approximately \$0.5 million related to legal, accounting and other fees in connection with the secondary public offering, which are included in general and administrative expenses in the Statement of Comprehensive Income (Loss).

Tender Offer

On September 25, 2013, the Company commenced a tender offer to purchase up to 6.5 million shares of its common stock, representing approximately 16.79% of the shares of TechTarget's common stock issued and outstanding at that time, at a price of \$5.00 per share. On September 23, 2013, the last reported sale price of the Company's common stock was \$4.79 per share.

The tender offer expired on October 24, 2013. In accordance with applicable SEC regulations and the terms of the tender offer, the Company exercised the right to purchase additional shares and based on the final tabulation by Computershare Trust Company, N.A., the Depositary for the tender offer, the Company accepted for purchase 7,100,565 shares of its common stock for a total cost of \$35.5 million. Repurchased shares were recorded under the cost method and are reflected as treasury stock in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets. The total cost of the tender offer was \$35.6 million, which includes approximately \$0.1 million in costs directly attributable to the purchase. Pursuant to the terms of the tender offer, the Company purchased 2,250,000 shares of common stock from entities affiliated with Technology Crossover Ventures (TCV).

Table of Contents**12. Income Taxes**

Income (loss) before provision for (benefit from) income taxes was as follows:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
	(in thousands)		
United States	\$ 6,071	\$ (3,157)	\$ 7,859
Foreign	1,055	663	350
Income (loss) before income taxes	\$ 7,126	\$ (2,494)	\$ 8,209

The income tax provision (benefit) for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 consisted of the following:

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Current:			
Federal	\$ 2,574	\$ (2,373)	\$ 3,265
State	15	34	516
Foreign	560	128	171
Total current	3,149	(2,211)	3,952
Deferred:			
Federal	(424)	1,700	(172)
State	593	(157)	258
Foreign	(273)	11	147
Total deferred	(104)	1,554	233
	\$ 3,045	\$ (657)	\$ 4,185

The income tax provision (benefit) for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 differs from the amounts computed by applying the statutory federal income tax rate to the consolidated income (loss) before income taxes as follows:

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Provision (benefit) computed at statutory rate	\$ 2,477	\$ (848)	\$ 2,873
(Reduction) increase resulting from:			
Difference in rates for foreign jurisdictions	(144)	(65)	
Tax exempt interest income		(6)	(23)
Stock-based compensation	(479)	271	526

Edgar Filing: TechTarget Inc - Form 10-K

Other non-deductible expenses	104	116	151
Non-deductible officers compensation	492	113	
State income tax provision	337	(228)	391
Valuation allowance	56	100	231
Secondary offering	188		
True-up of prior year returns		(154)	
Penalties and interest	15	15	
Other	(1)	29	36
Provision for (benefit from) income taxes	\$ 3,045	\$ (657)	\$ 4,185

Significant components of the Company's net deferred tax assets and liabilities are as follows:

	As of December 31,	
	2014	2013
Deferred tax assets:		
Net operating loss carryforwards	\$ 1,151	\$ 1,434
Capital losses	46	46
Deferred revenue		917
Accruals and allowances	1,681	602
Intangible asset amortization		84
Stock-based compensation	5,718	5,835
Deferred rent expense	1,060	1,202
Gross deferred tax assets	9,656	10,120
Less valuation allowance	(1,214)	(1,158)
Total deferred tax assets	8,442	8,962
Deferred tax liabilities:		
Intangible asset amortization	(904)	(734)
Deferred revenue	(44)	
Depreciation	(2,063)	(2,545)
Total deferred tax liabilities	(3,011)	(3,279)
Net deferred tax assets	\$ 5,431	\$ 5,683
As reported:		
Current deferred tax assets	\$ 2,674	\$ 555
Non-current deferred tax assets	\$ 3,230	\$ 5,873
Non-current deferred tax liabilities	\$ 473	\$ 745

Table of Contents

In evaluating the ability to realize the net deferred tax asset, the Company considers all available evidence, both positive and negative, including past operating results, the existence of cumulative losses in the most recent fiscal years, tax planning strategies that are prudent and feasible, and forecasts of future taxable income. In considering sources of future taxable income, the Company makes certain assumptions and judgments which are based on the plans and estimates used to manage the underlying business of the Company. Changes in the Company's assumptions and estimates may materially impact income tax expense for the period. The valuation allowance of \$1,214 and \$1,158 at December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively, relates to foreign net operating losses (NOLs) and state NOLs acquired from KnowledgeStorm that the Company determined were not more likely than not to be realized based on projections of future taxable income in California, Georgia, China and Hong Kong. The valuation allowance increased by \$56, \$100 and \$231 during the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. To the extent realization of the deferred tax assets for foreign and the state net operating losses becomes more likely than not, recognition of these acquired tax benefits would reduce income tax expense. As of December 31, 2014, the Company has a federal NOL carryforward of approximately \$4.3 million, which may be used to offset future taxable income. The federal NOL is attributable to excess tax deductions from share-based payments, the benefit of which would be credited to additional paid-in capital when the deductions reduce cash taxes payable. The federal NOL carryforward will expire in 2034.

The Company considers the excess of its financial reporting over its tax basis in its investment in foreign subsidiaries essentially permanent in duration and as such has not recognized a deferred tax liability related to this difference.

The amount of unrecognized tax benefits at December 31, 2014 was approximately \$0.7 million. The amount of unrecognized tax benefits that impact the effective tax rate, if recognized, is approximately \$0.5 million.

A reconciliation of the beginning and ending amounts of unrecognized tax benefits for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 is as follows:

	2014	2013	2012
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 657	\$ 642	\$ 628
Gross increases related to positions taken in prior periods	15	15	14
Balance at end of year	\$ 672	\$ 657	\$ 642

In March 2010, the Company received a letter from the MA DOR requesting documentation demonstrating that TSC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, has been classified by the MA DOR as a Massachusetts security corporation. Based on subsequent correspondence with the MA DOR, the Company determined that it was more likely than not that the MA DOR would require an adjustment to correct TSC's tax filings such that it will be treated as a Massachusetts business corporation for the applicable years. The Company recorded a tax reserve for approximately \$0.4 million. The tax benefits available to a Massachusetts security corporation are comprised of (i) a different rate structure (1.32% on gross investment income vs. 9.5% on net income) and (ii) exemption from the 0.26% excise tax on net worth (see Note 9). On August 17, 2011, the Company filed Applications for Abatement with the MA DOR. On January 6, 2012, the Company filed Petitions under Formal Procedure with the Massachusetts Appellate Tax Board. A trial took place on April 29, 2014; no decision has been rendered as of the date of this report. As of December 31, 2014 the Company has recorded a liability of approximately \$672 to account for the tax differential in all open years, which includes penalties and interest for the potential state income tax liability arising from the difference between the income tax rates applicable to security corporations and business corporations in Massachusetts.

The Company recognized interest and penalties totaling \$15 on its uncertain tax positions in income tax expense in 2014. Tax years 2011 through 2014 are subject to examination by the federal and state taxing authorities.

Table of Contents

As of December 31, 2014, the Company had state NOL carryforwards of approximately \$20.5 million, which may be used to offset future taxable income. The NOL carryforwards expire at various dates through 2035. The Company has foreign NOL carryforwards of \$1.1 million, which may be used to offset future taxable income in foreign jurisdictions until they expire, through 2019.

13. Segment Information

The Company views its operations and manages its business as one operating segment based on factors such as how the Company manages its operations and how its executive management team reviews results and makes decisions on how to allocate resources and assess performance.

Geographic Data

Net sales to unaffiliated customers by geographic area* were as follows: